

ISSUE  
**103**

CLONE SAGA: PART 7

# ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN



**MARVEL**

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**BENDIS  
BAGLEY  
HENNESSY**

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# PREVIOUSLY IN ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN...

The bite of a genetically-altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers! When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power must also come great responsibility...

Now the fledgling super hero tries to balance a full high school curriculum, a night job as a web designer for the *Daily Bugle* tabloid, a friendship with the beautiful Mary Jane Watson, and swing time as the misunderstood, web-slinging Spider-Man.

Worried about the danger his crime-fighting life places MJ in, Peter breaks up with her and starts dating Kitty Pryde, of the mutant super-hero team, the X-Men. Nevertheless, MJ is kidnapped by a horribly scarred, tattered clone of Peter. He takes her to an abandoned Oscorp laboratory and swears he's found a way to keep MJ safe from harm...by transforming her into a monster like the Green Goblin!

As the real Peter searches for MJ, he instead discovers his friend Gwen Stacy is back from the dead... As if that weren't enough, Peter's father—Richard—reappears (after long being thought dead himself) and reveals that he has been doing secret cloning experiments for the CIA! Even worse—Peter reveals to his Aunt May that he is Spider-Man!

Suddenly, Nick Fury—head of the government's superhuman task force and armed to the teeth with spider-slayer warrior drones—surrounds the house. The overwhelming stress of the situation gives Aunt May a heart attack...but the greater shock is when Gwen transforms into Carnage—the very monster that killed her—and attacks Fury and his men!

When the Fantastic Four arrive to help Peter, Carnage is defeated and Aunt May is taken to the hospital (with Peter's dad and the FF's Sue Storm following)...and Peter is rescued by another clone of himself—this one, a girl! She takes Peter to the Oscorp lab where he finds the mutated MJ and a veritable army of clones...but yet another surprise comes when the mastermind reveals himself: Doctor Octopus, with Fury and the Fantastic Four at his side!



## CLONE SAGA

Part 7

Brian Michael  
Bendis  
WRITER  
  
Rich  
Ginter  
PRODUCTION

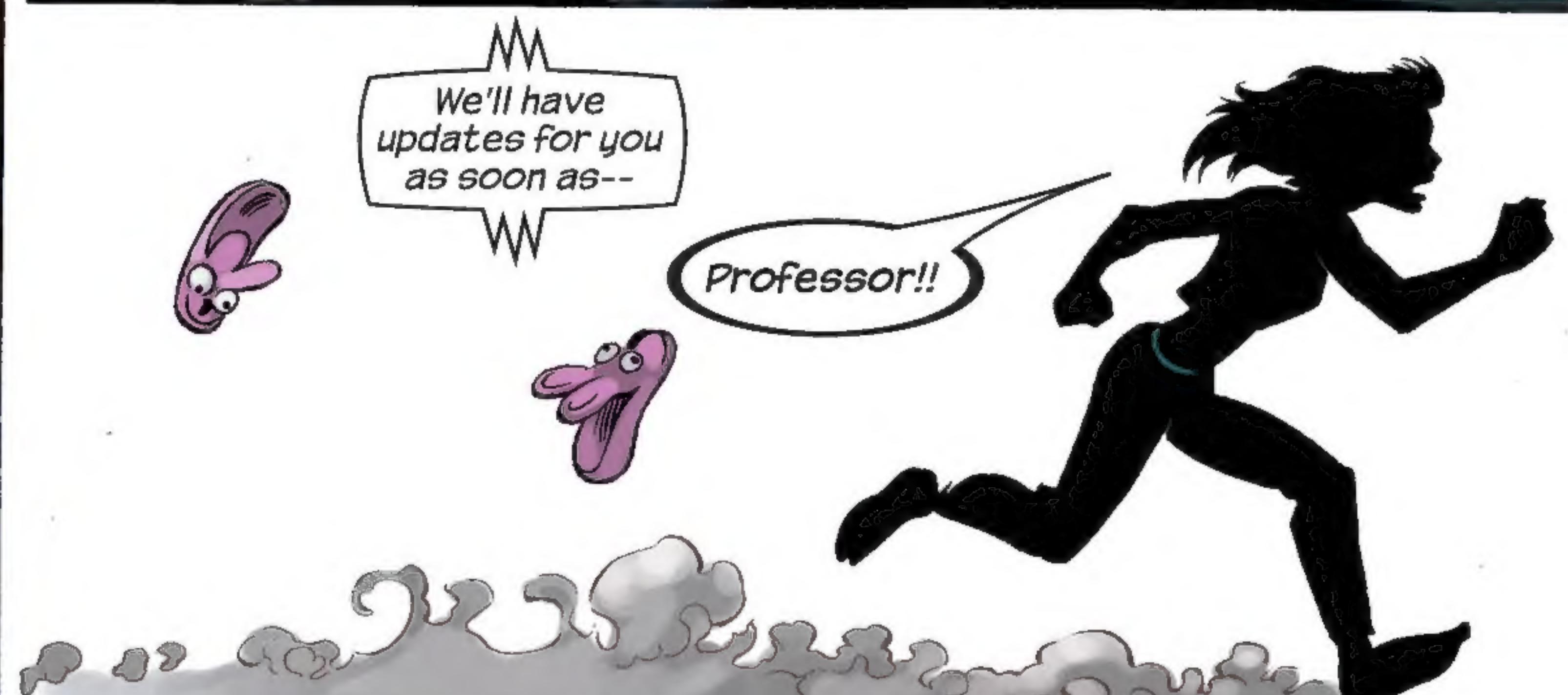
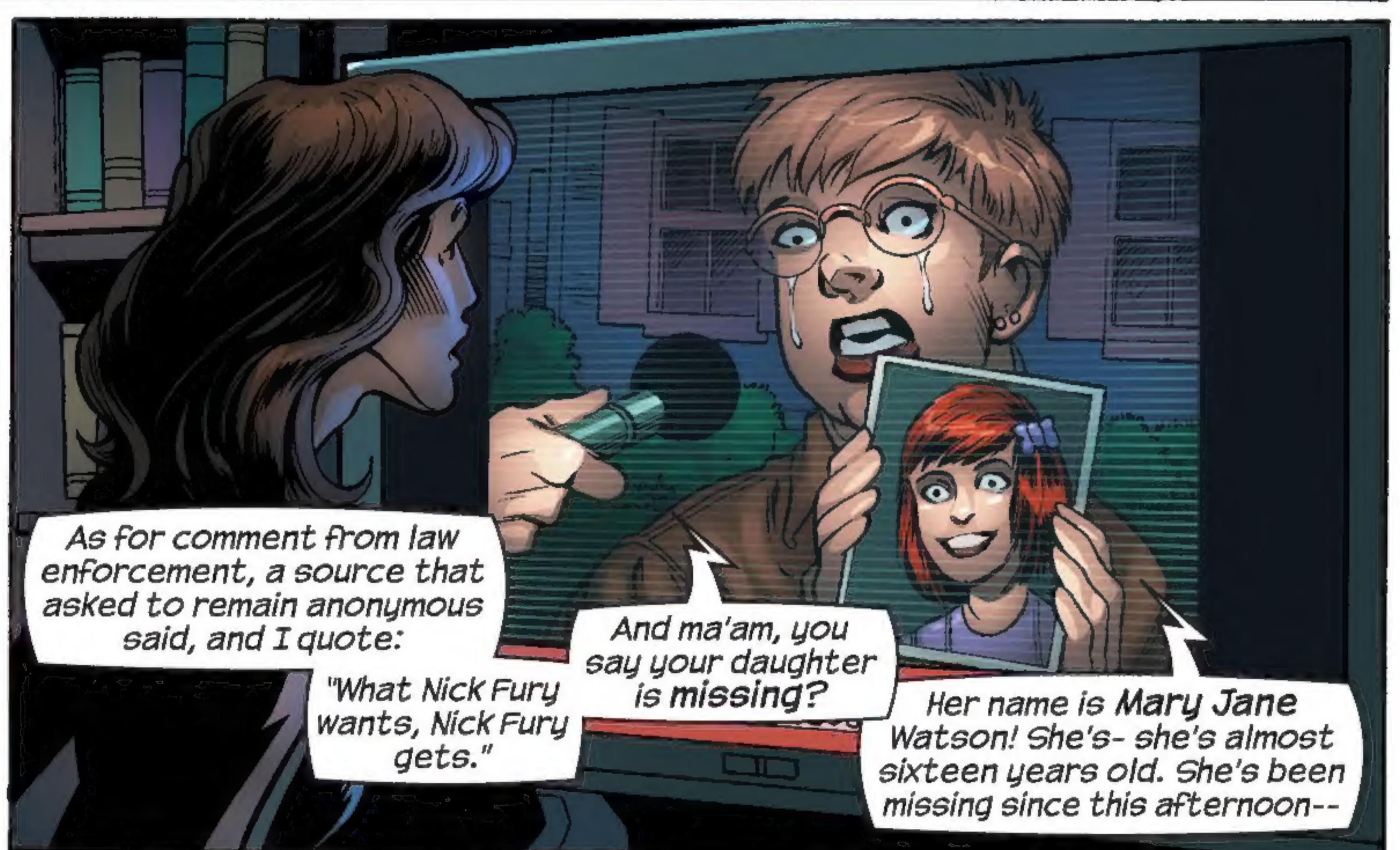
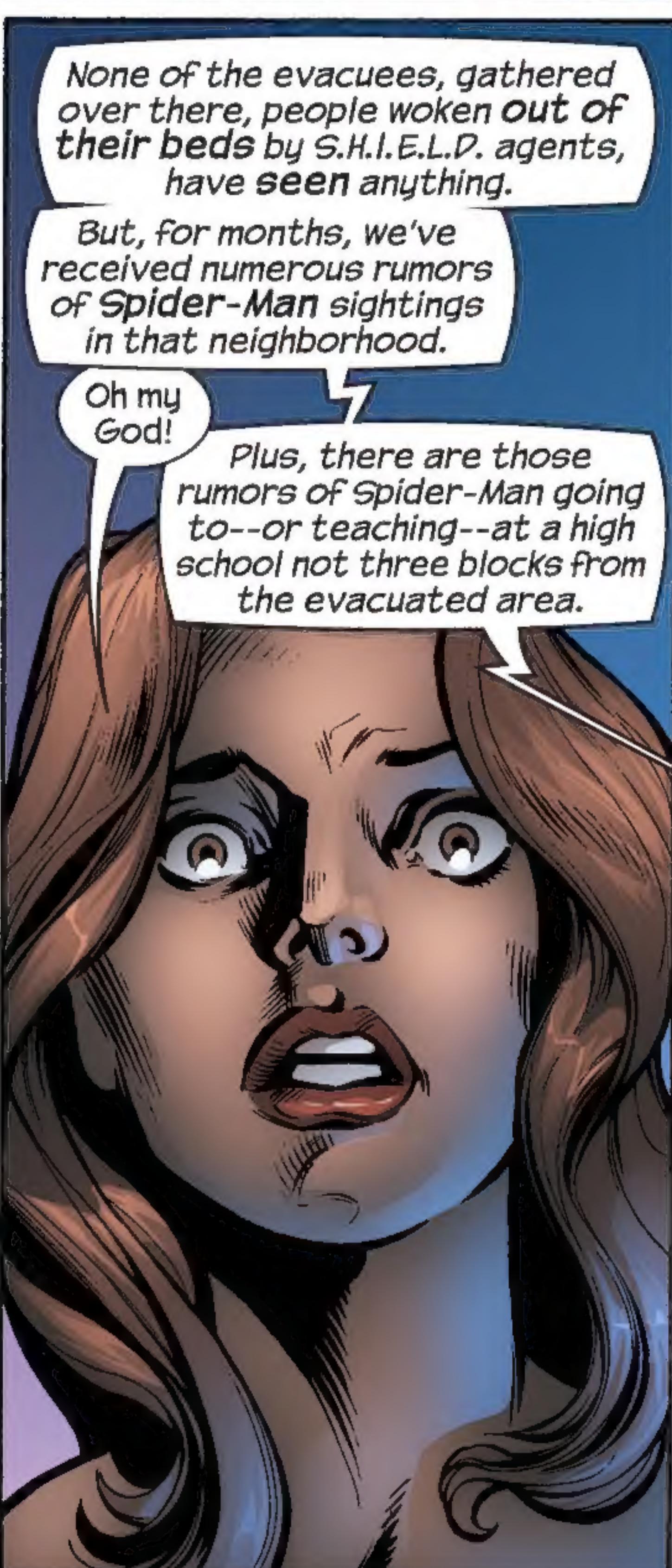
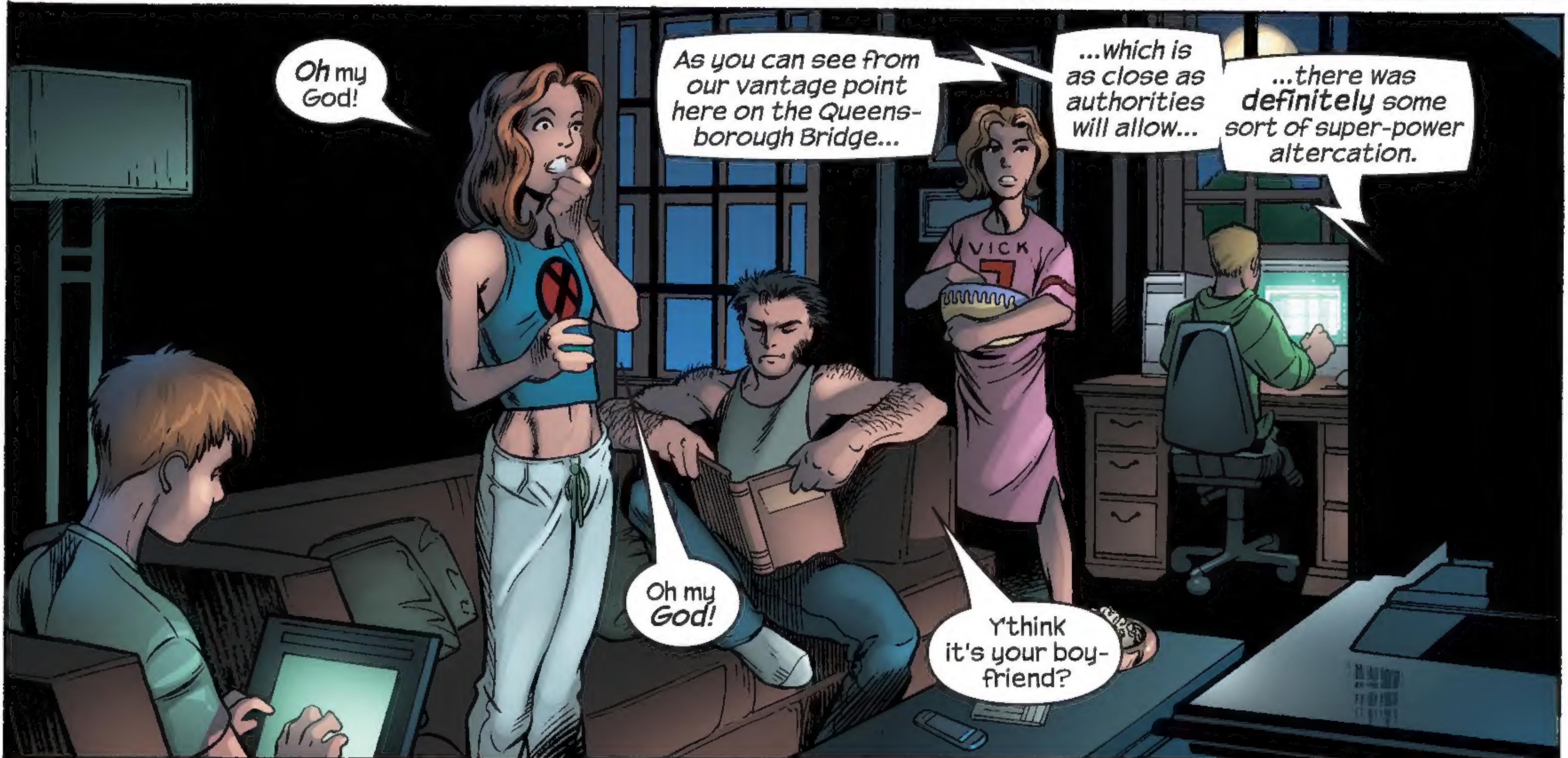
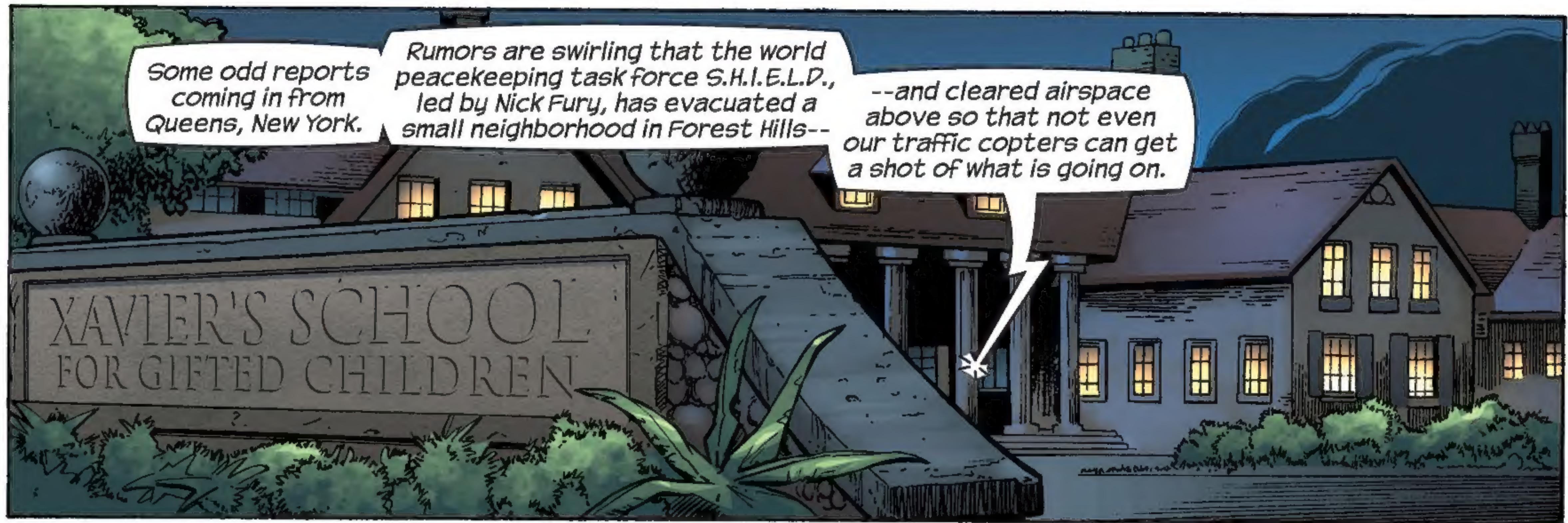
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EDITOR

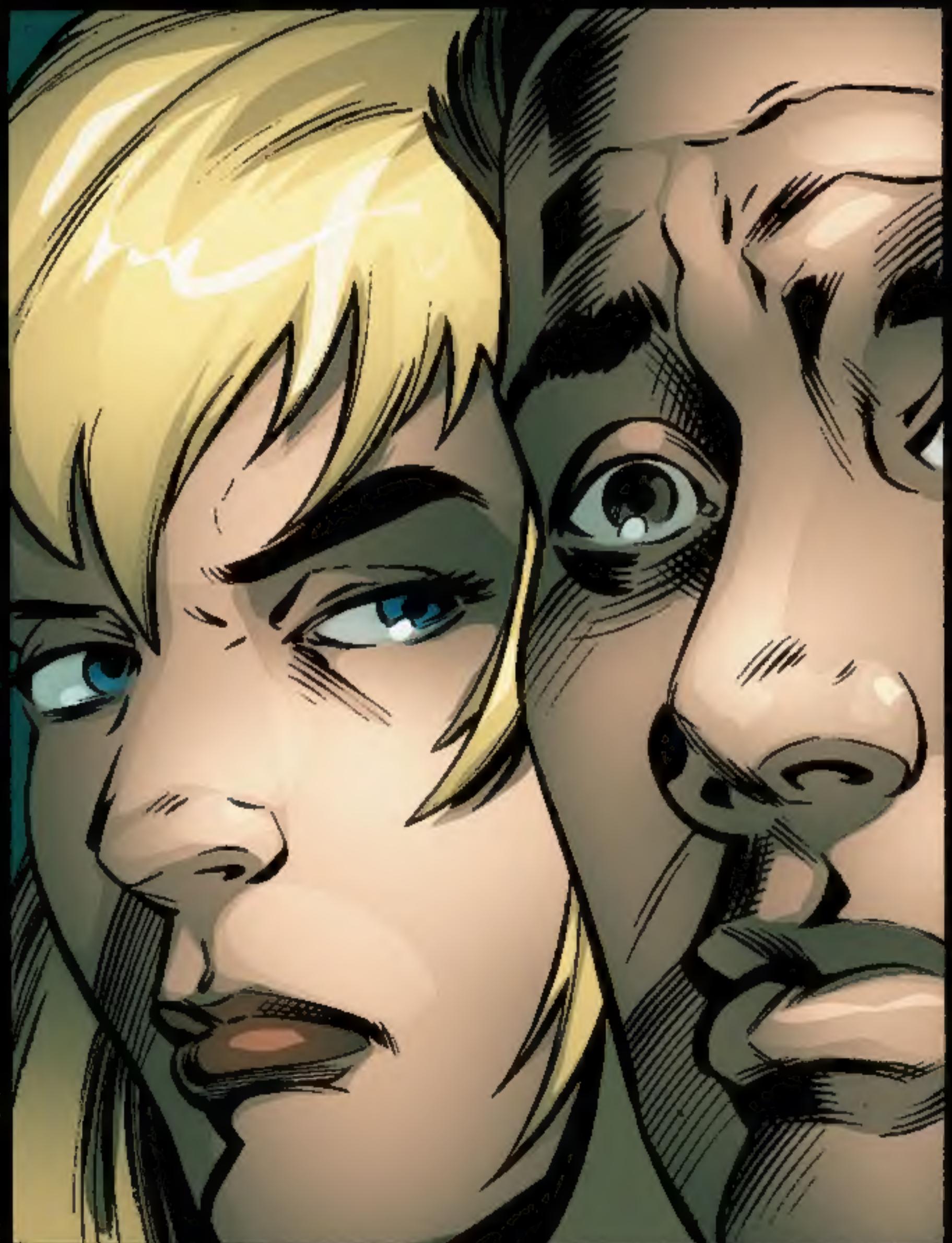
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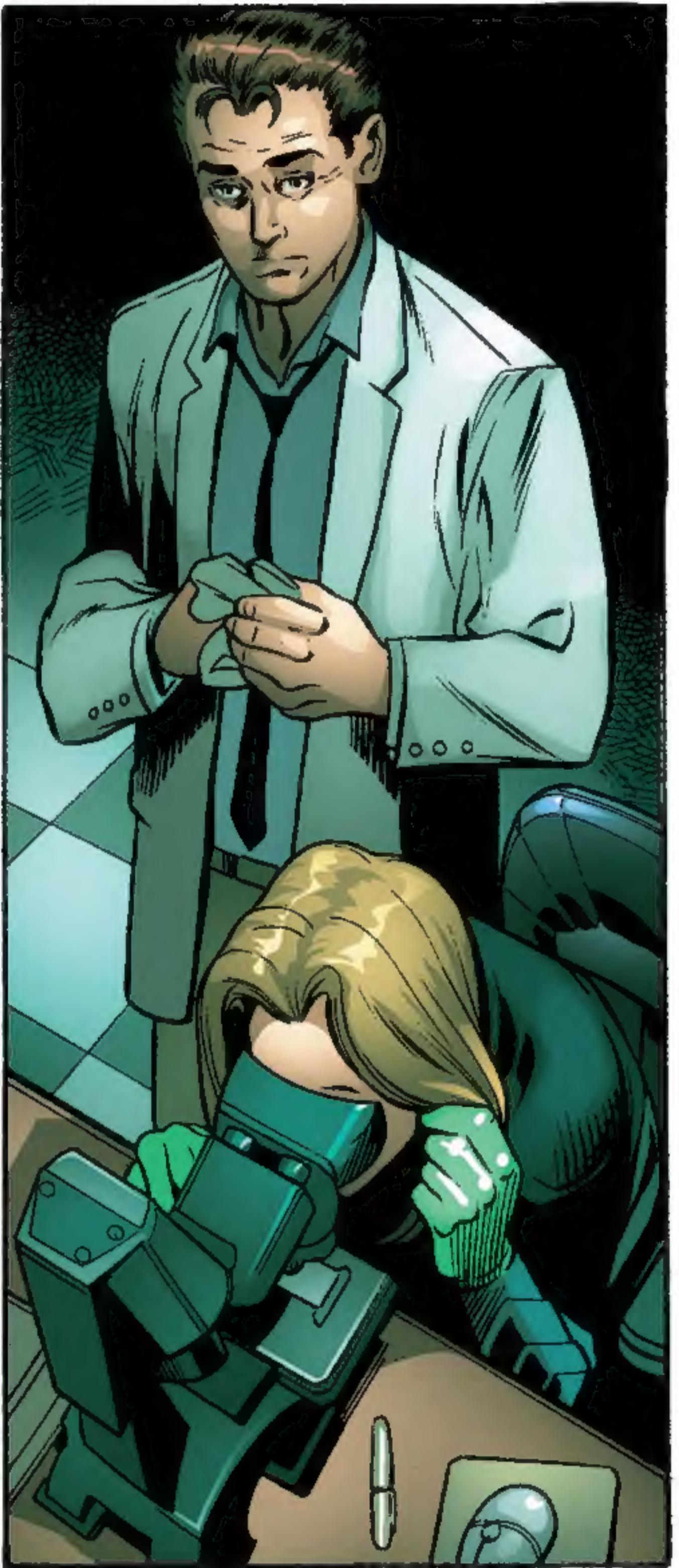
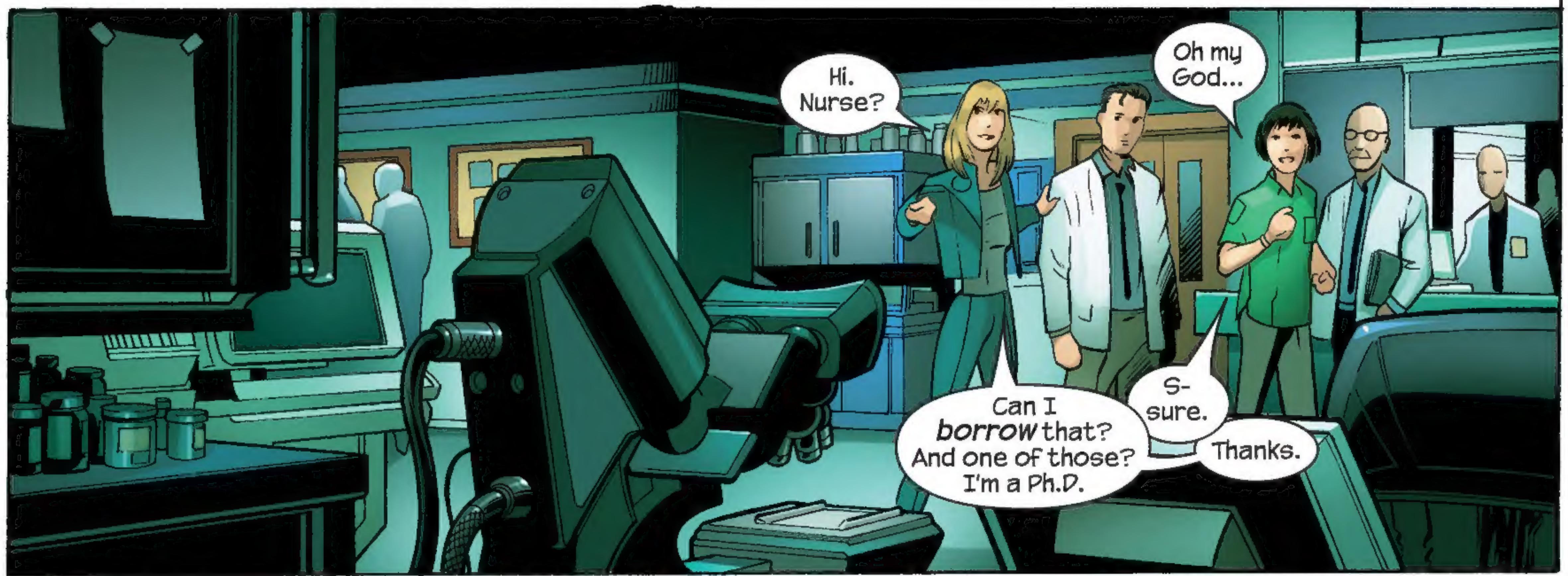
VC's Cory  
Petit  
LETTERER  
  
Dan  
Buckley  
PUBLISHER

Cover: Mark Bagley & Richard Isanove



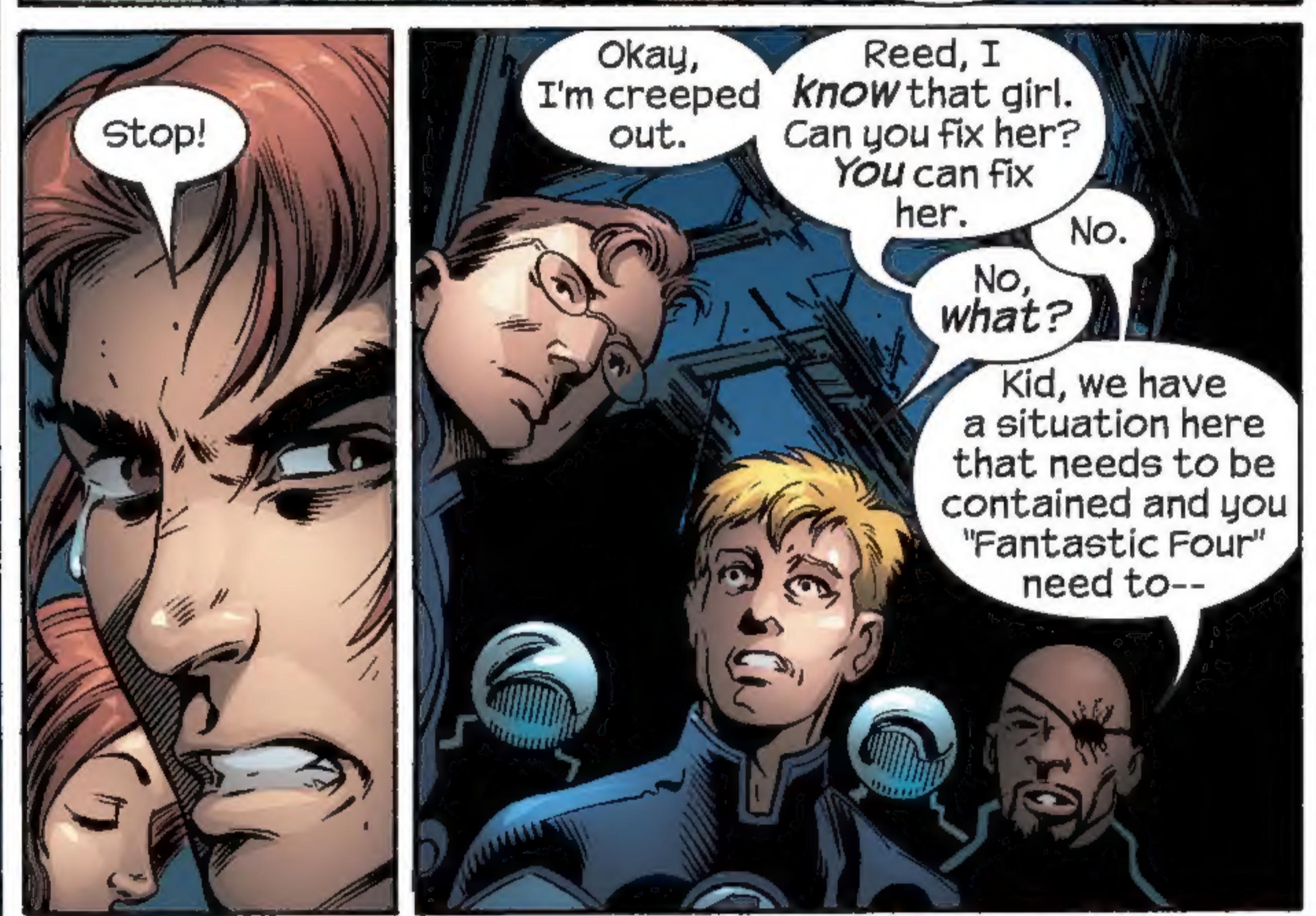


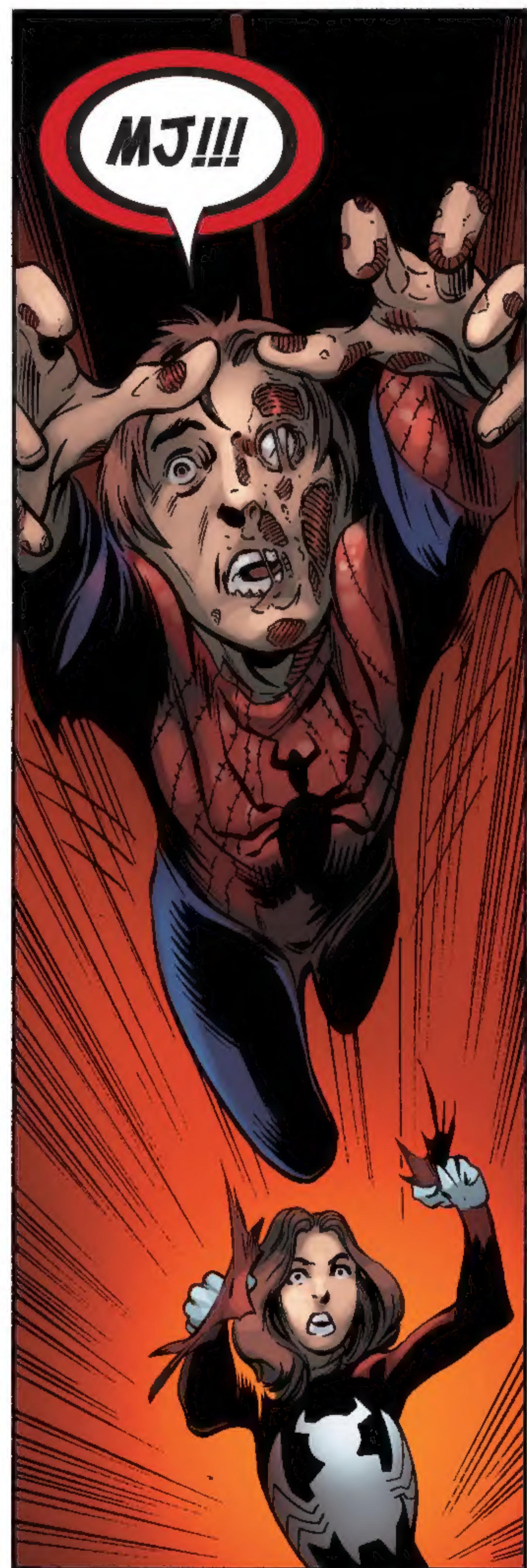


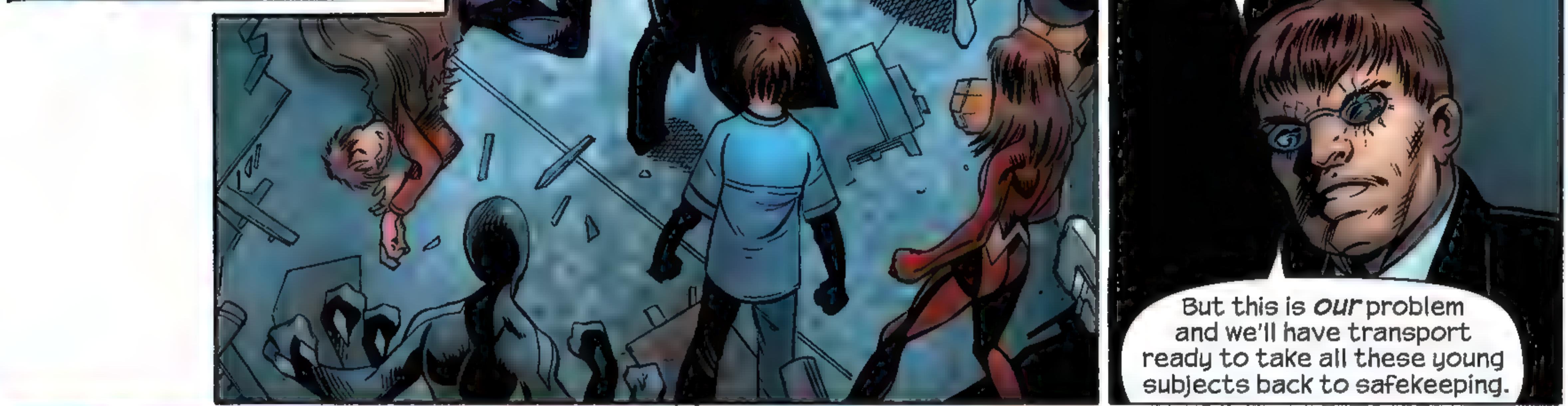


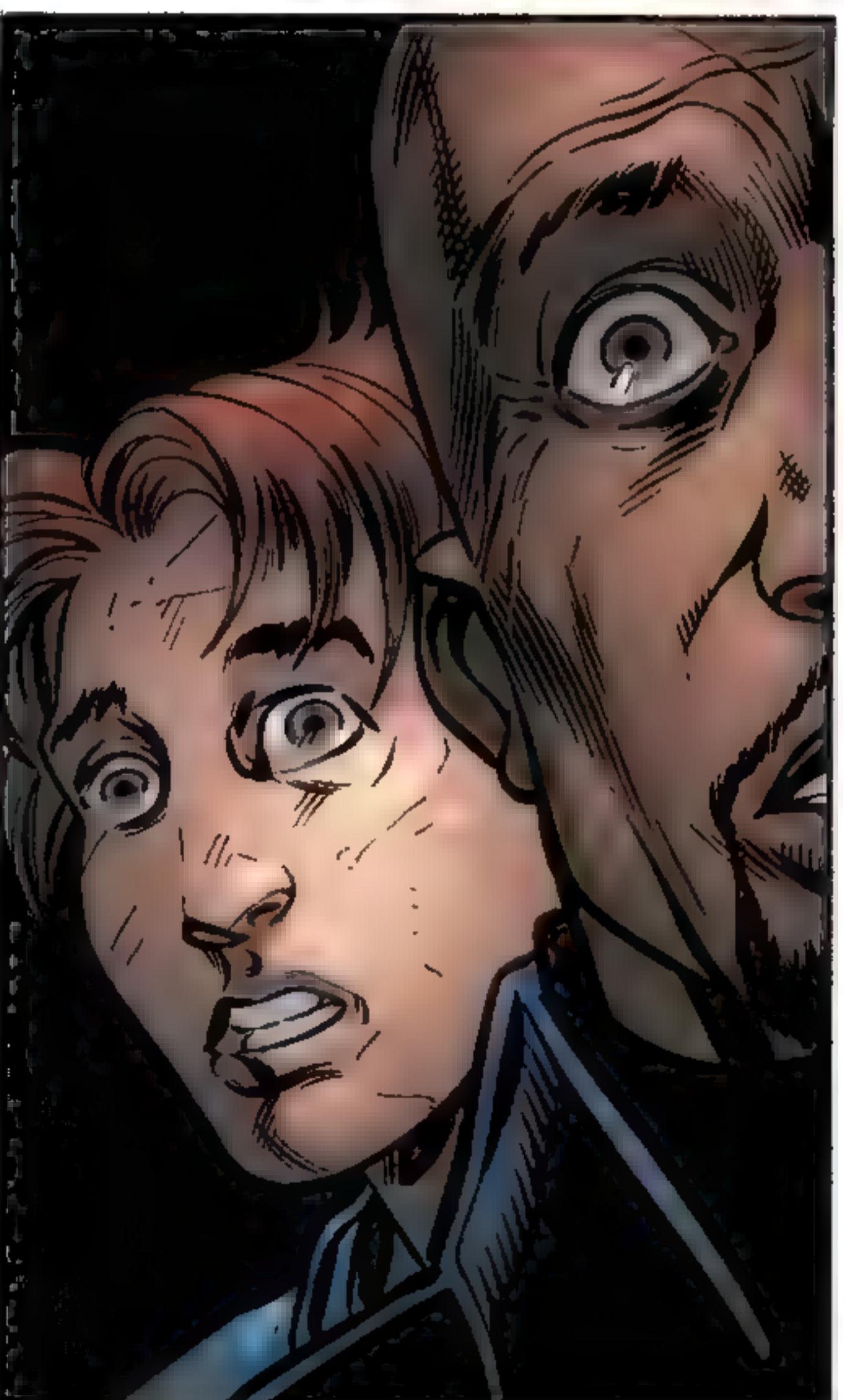


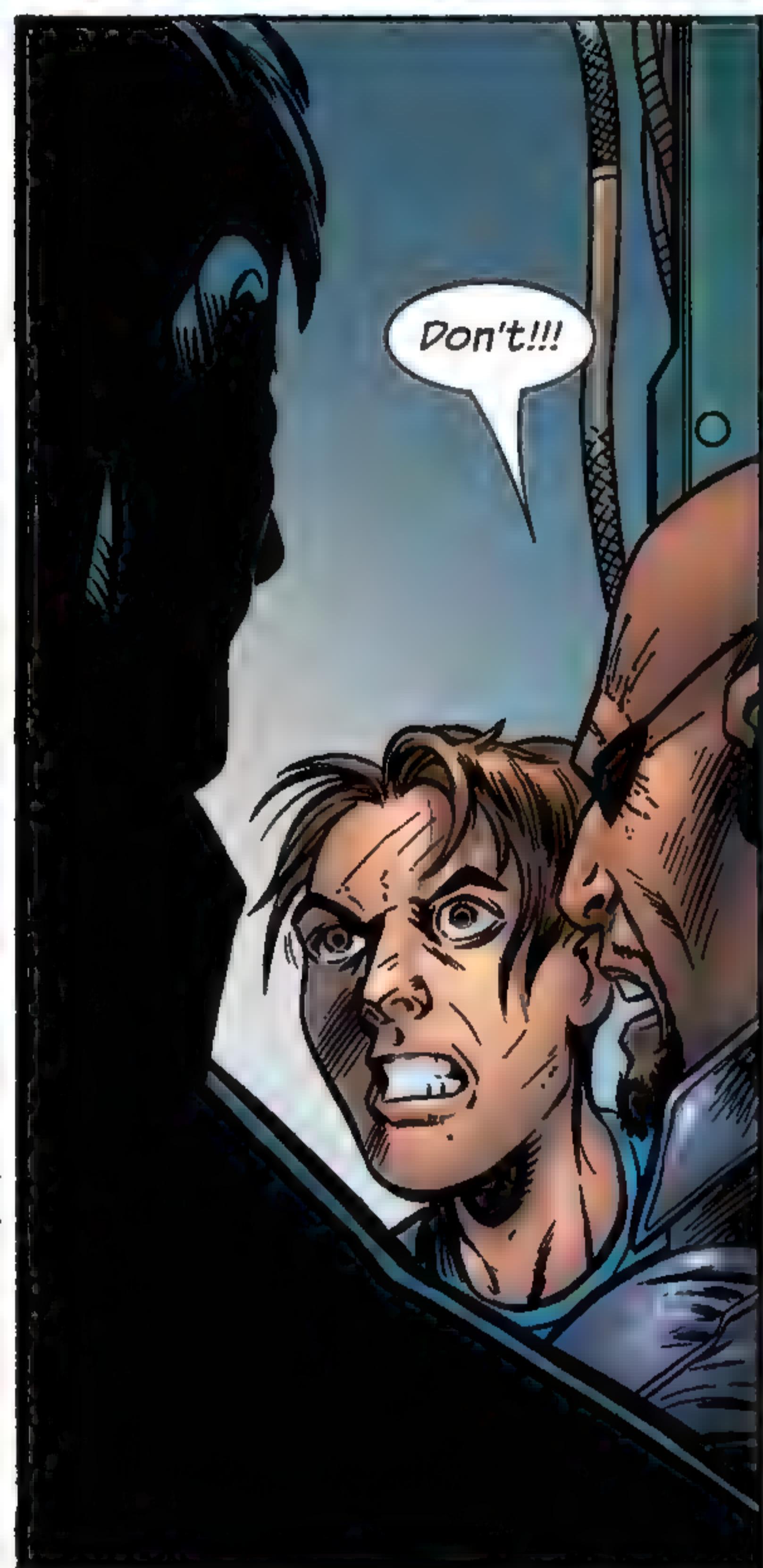
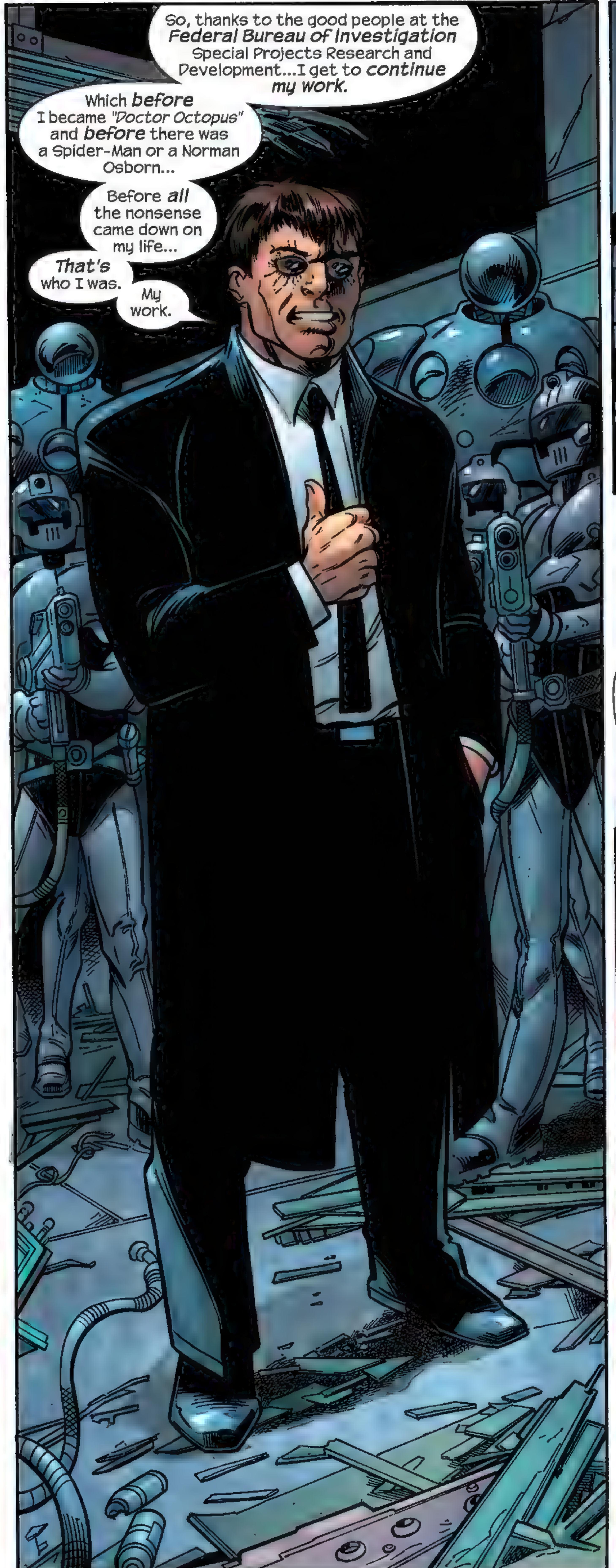


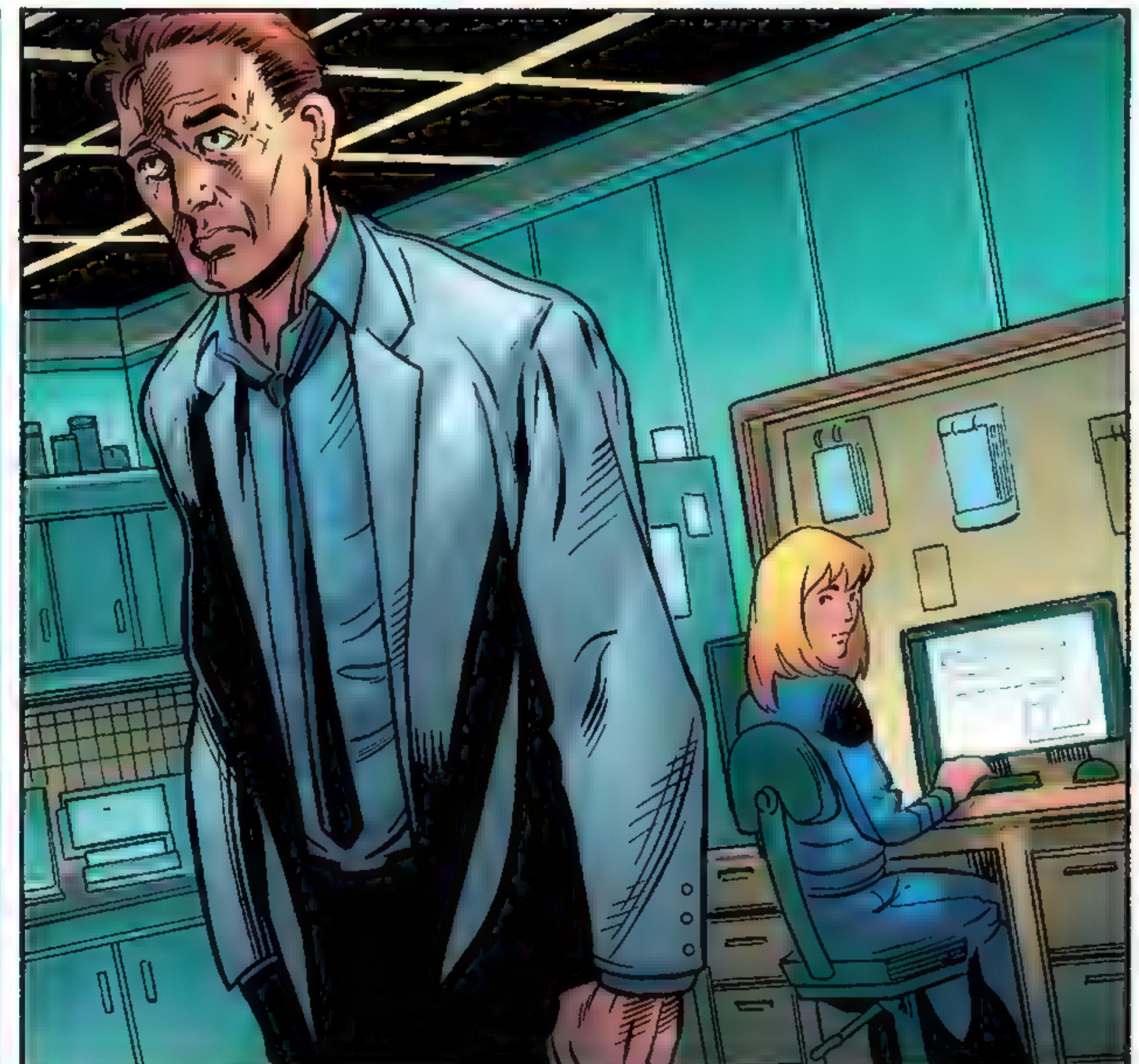
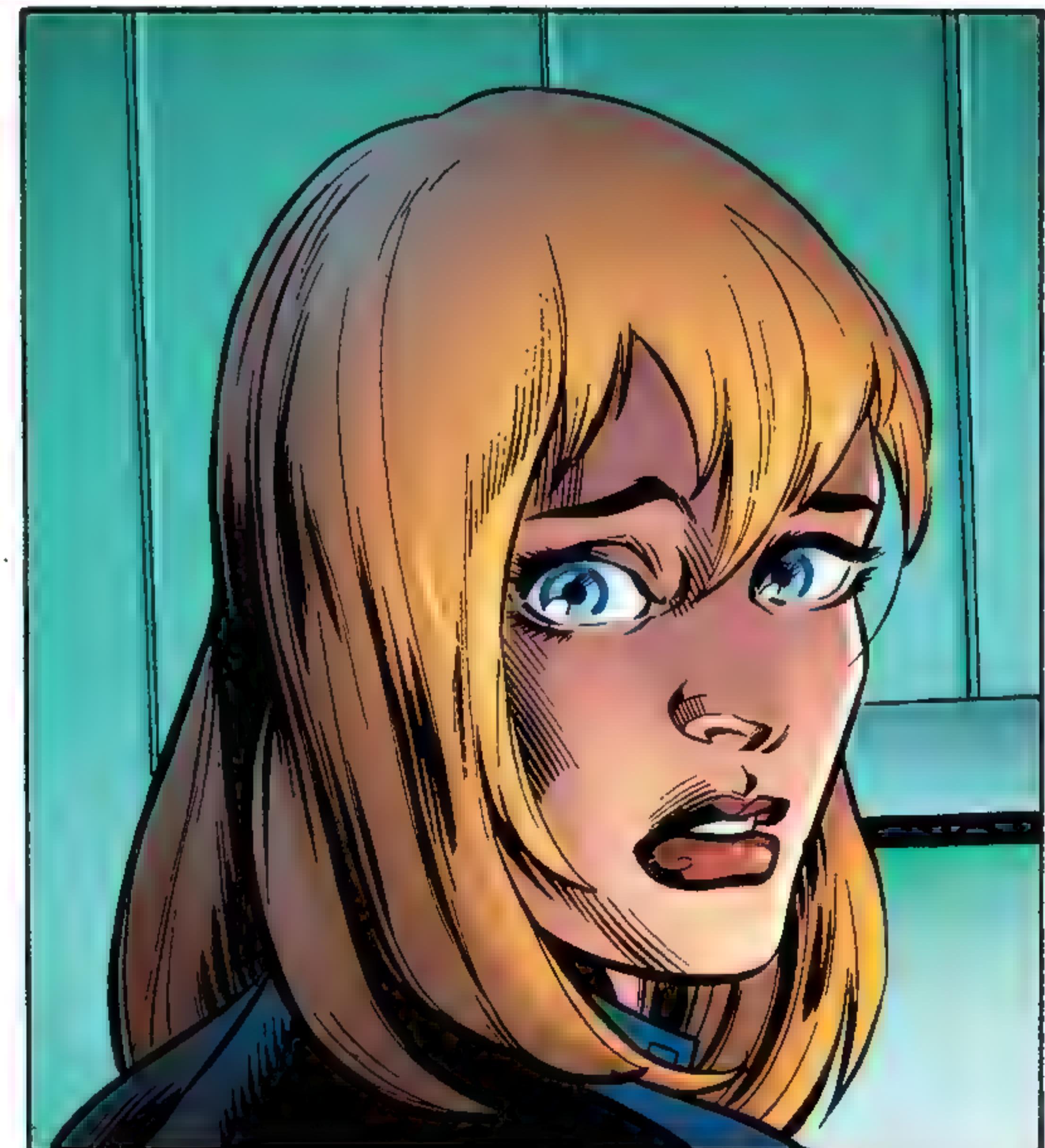
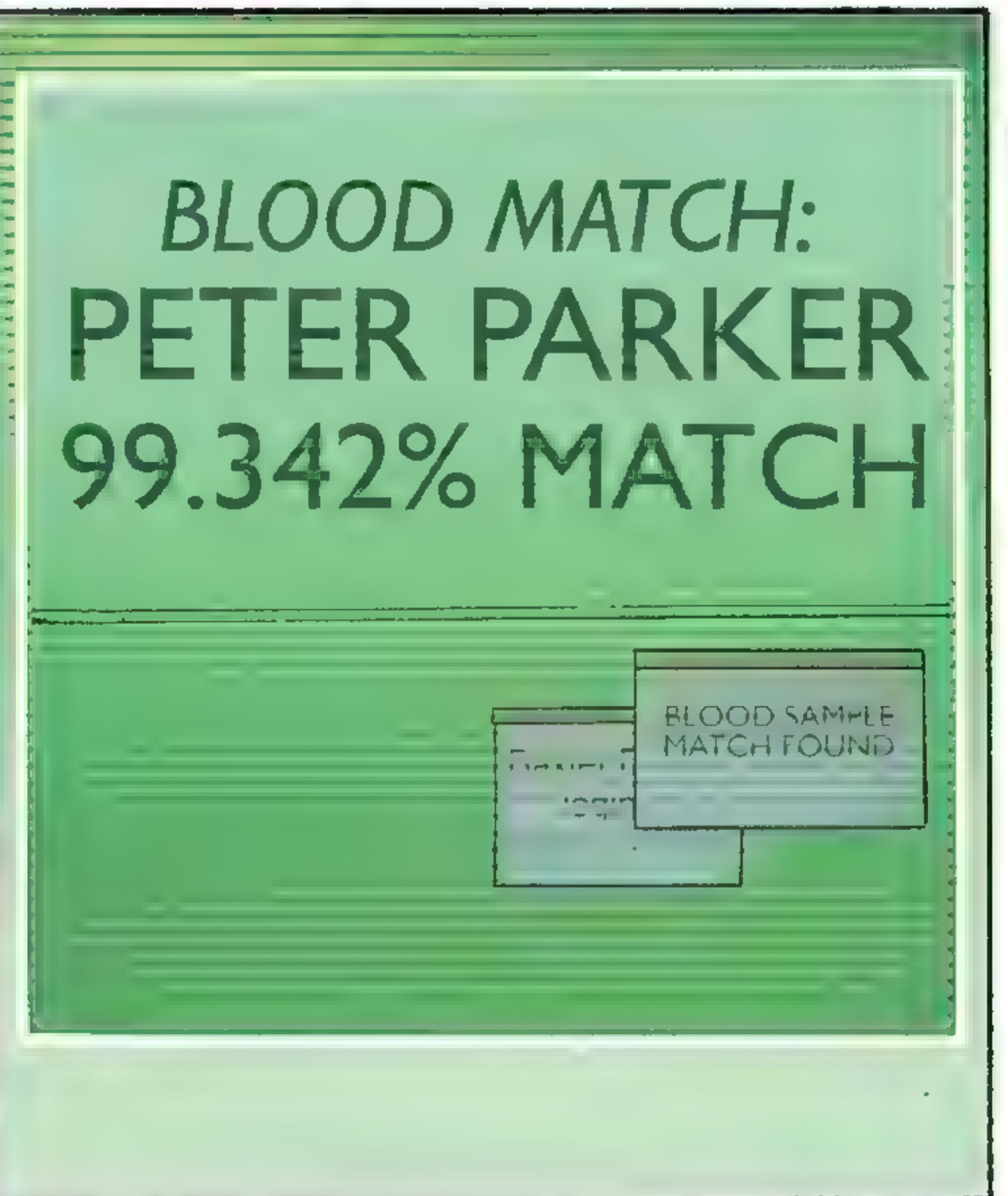
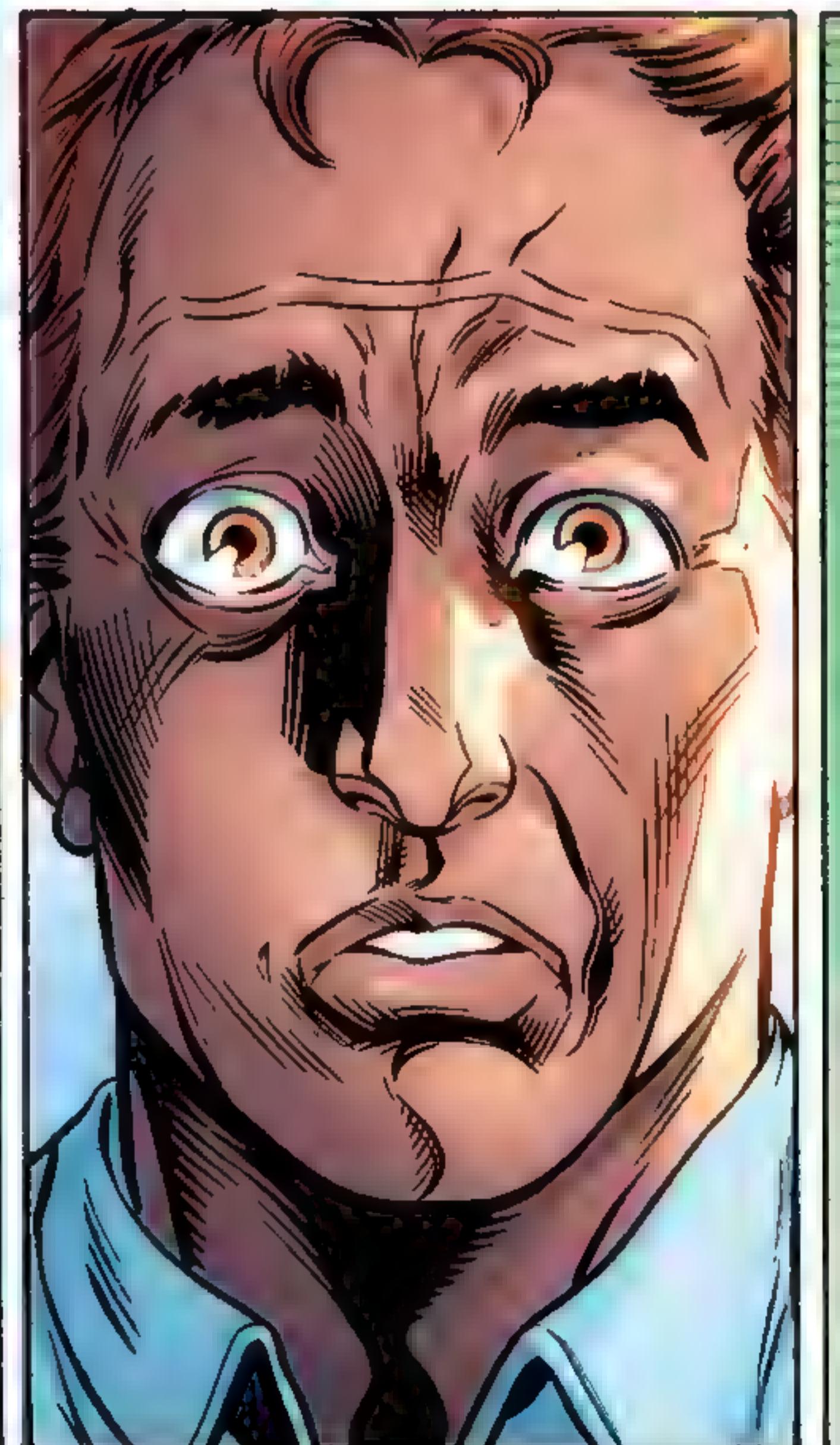
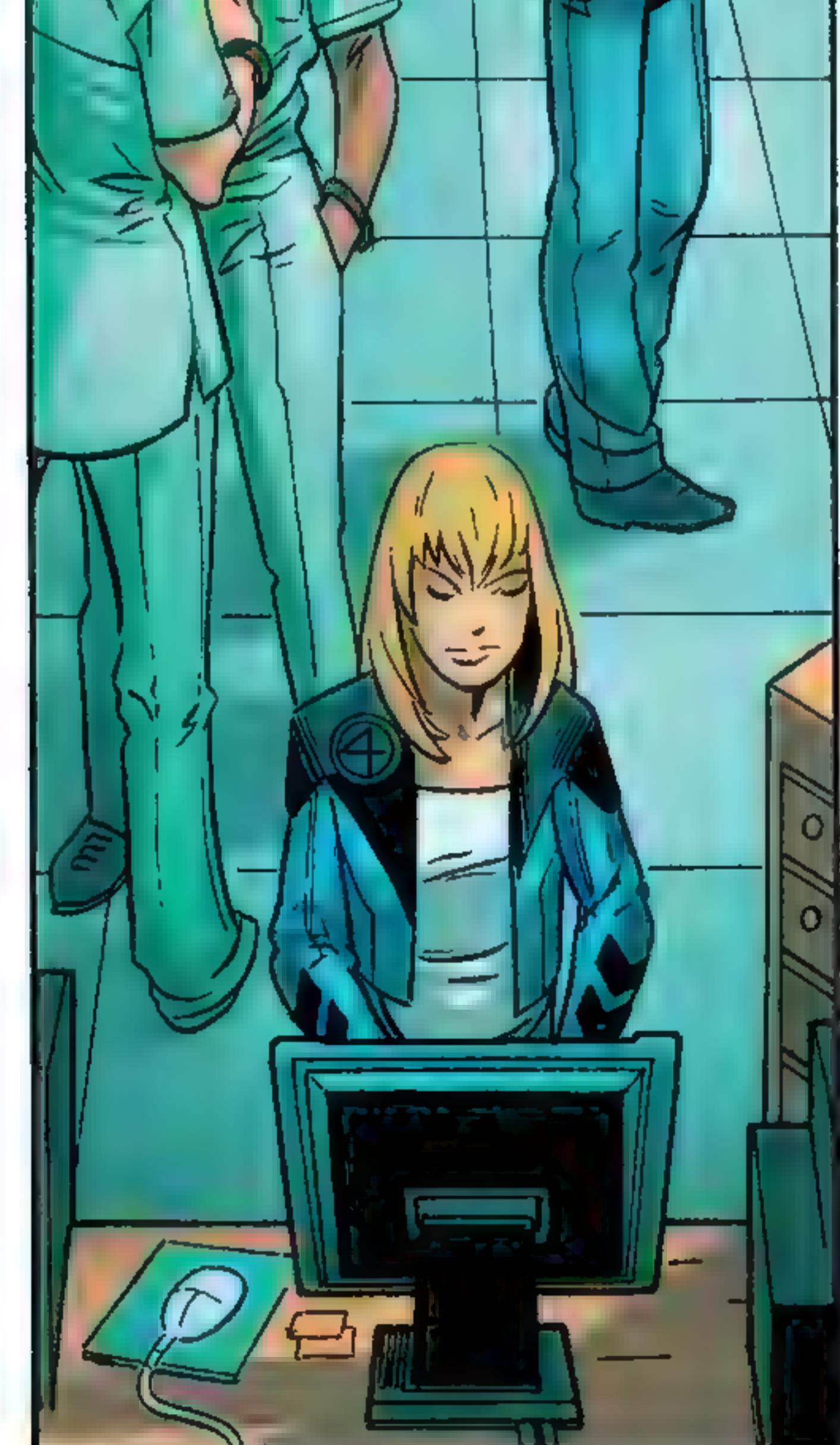
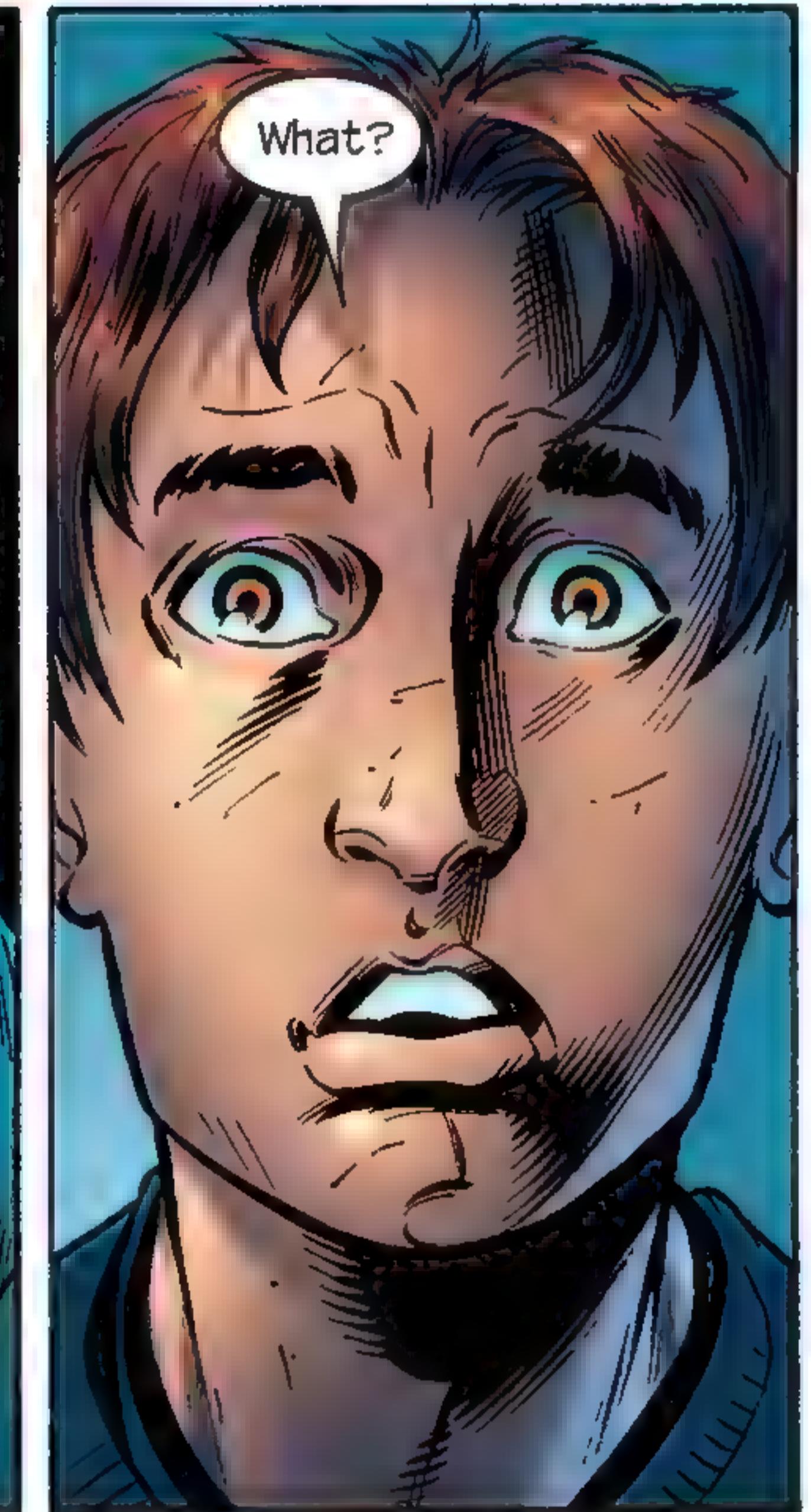
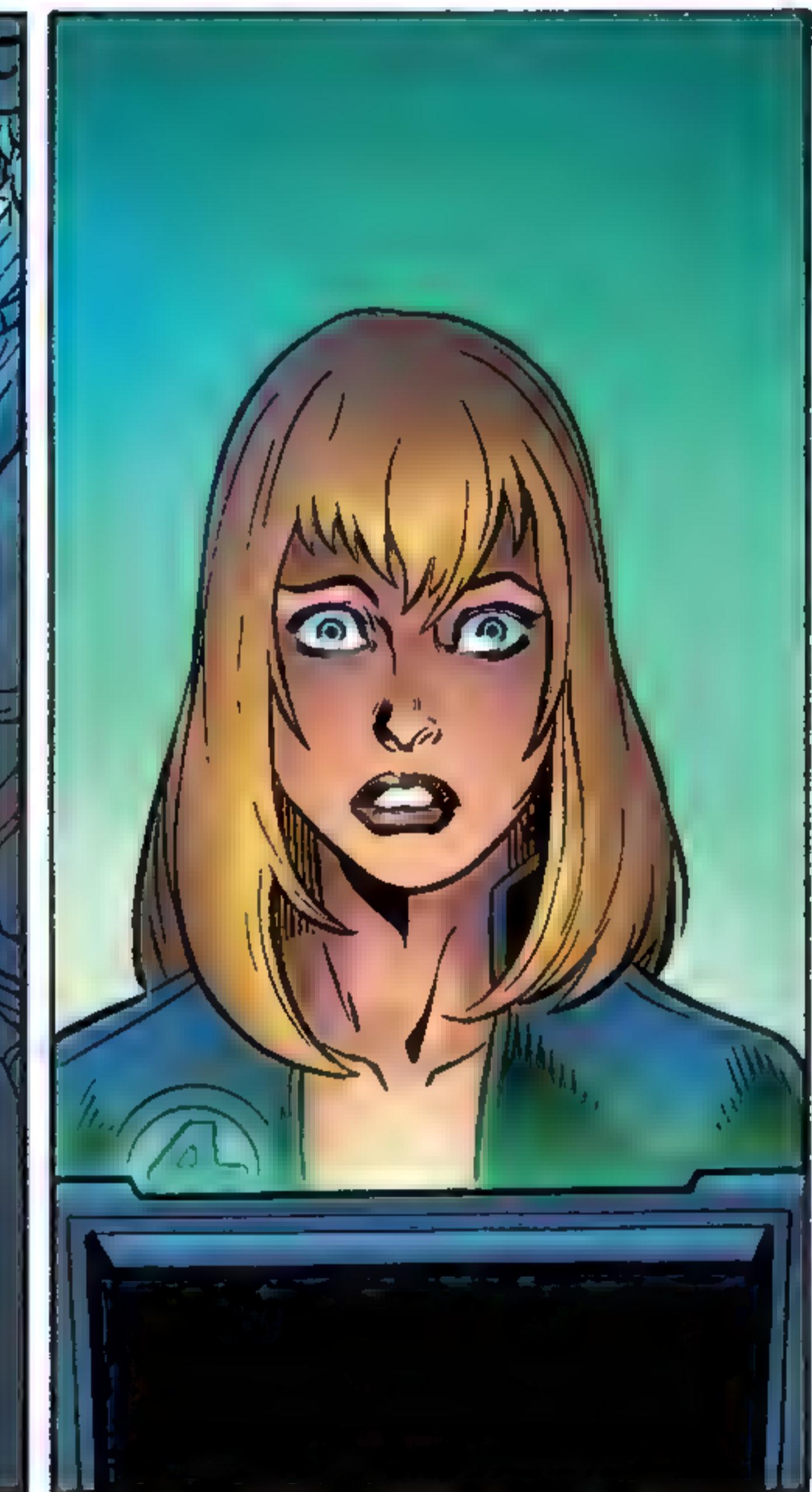
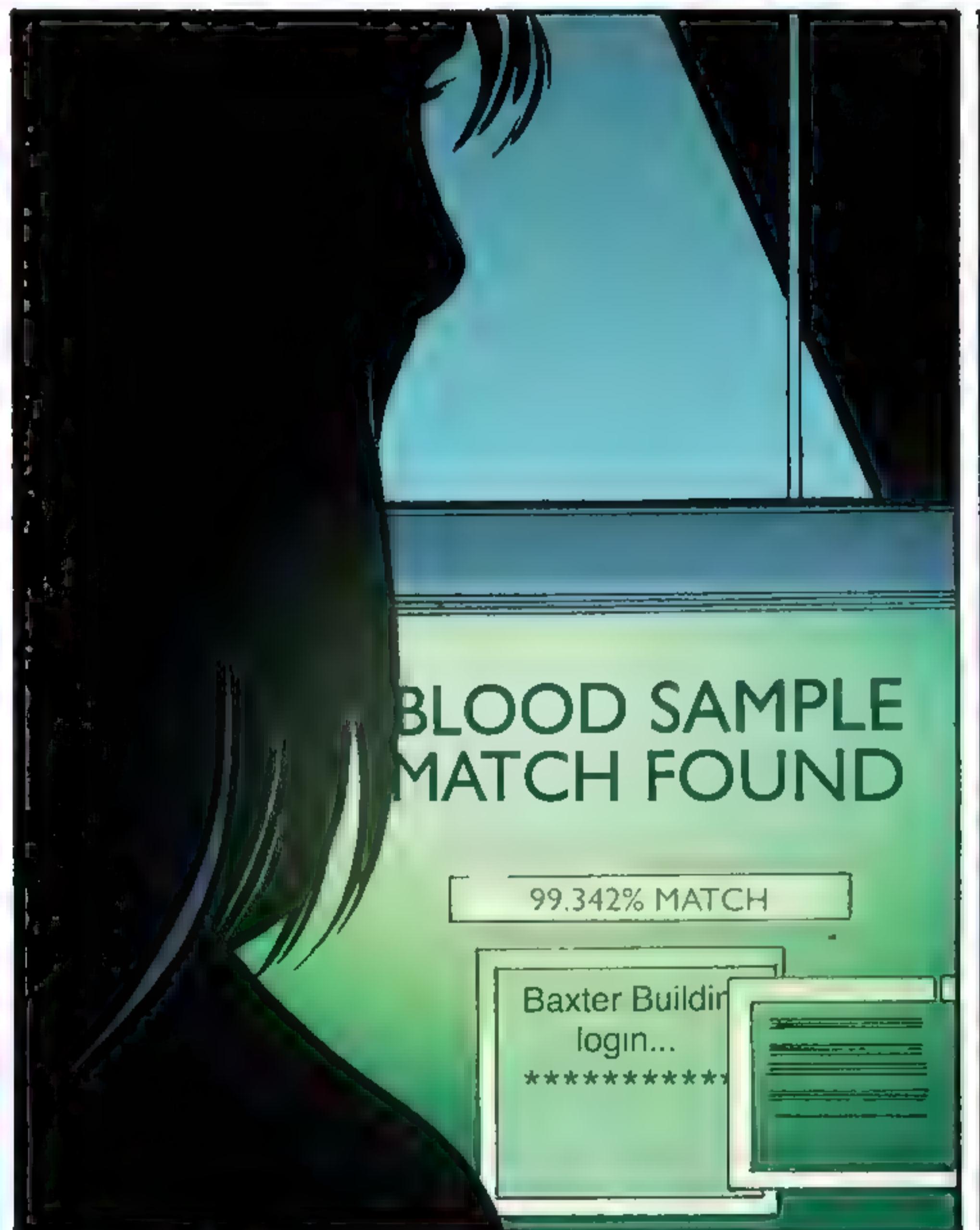
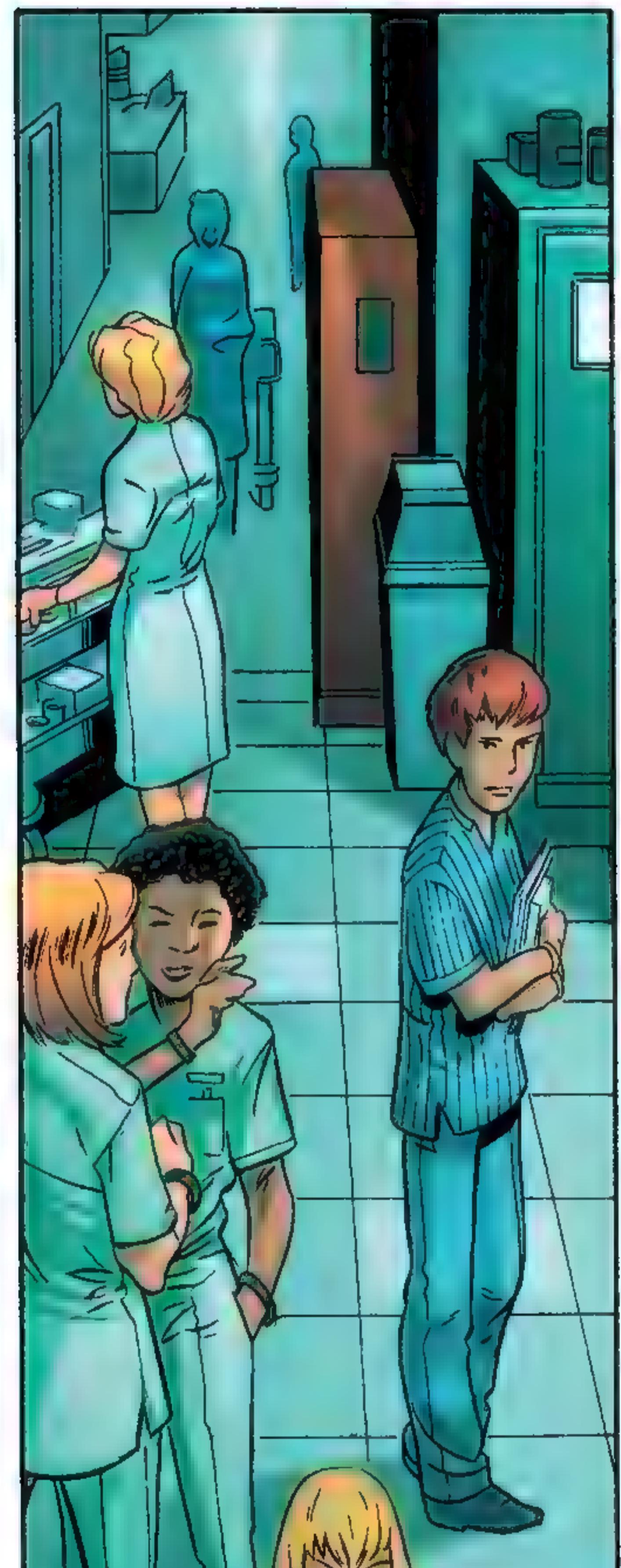
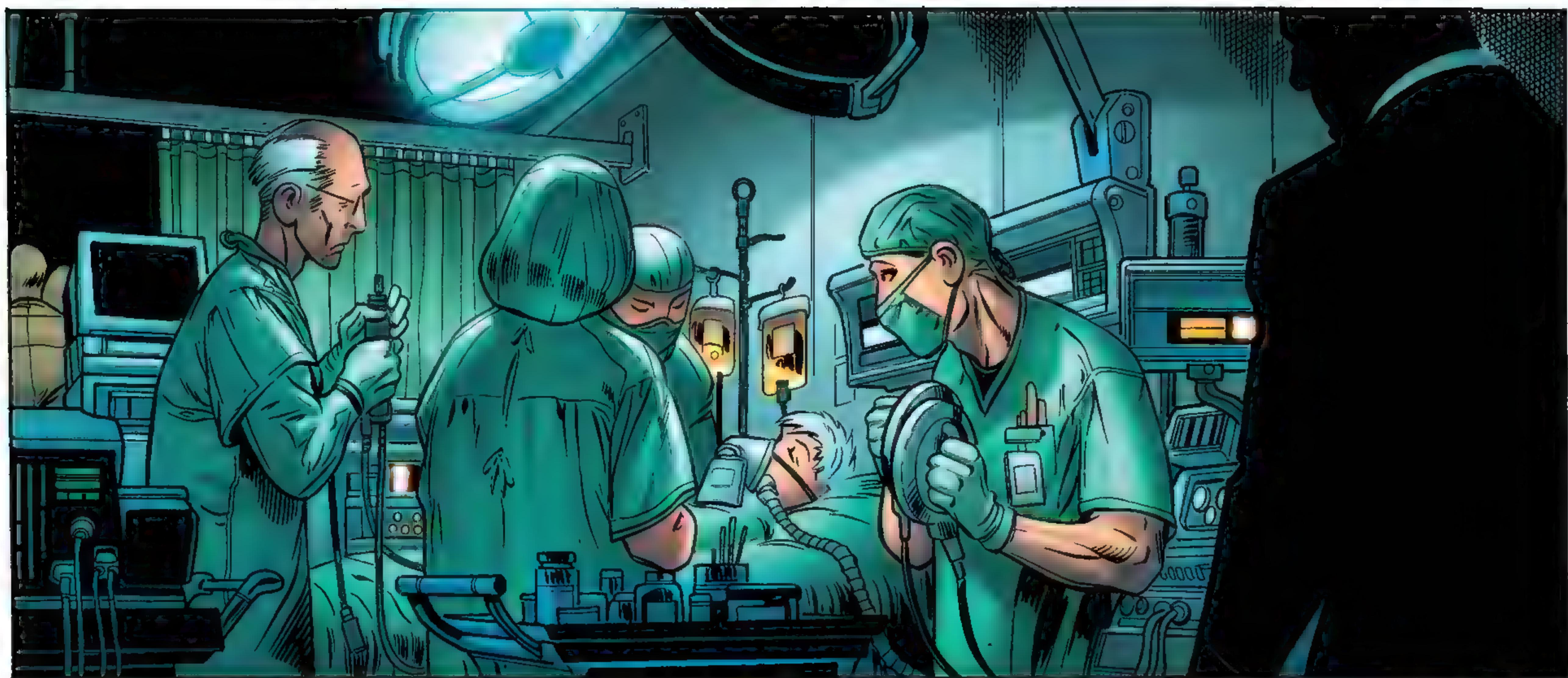


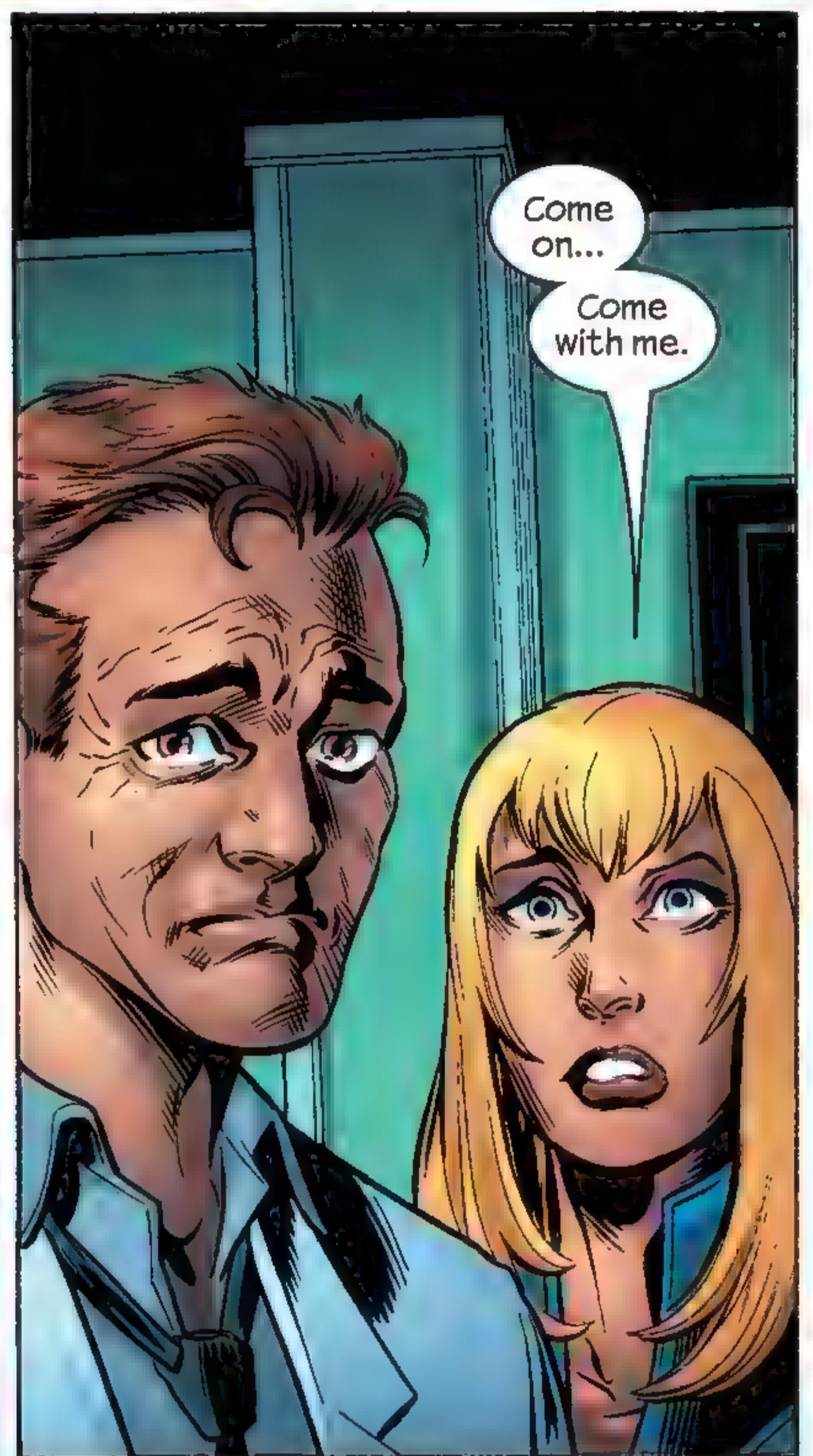








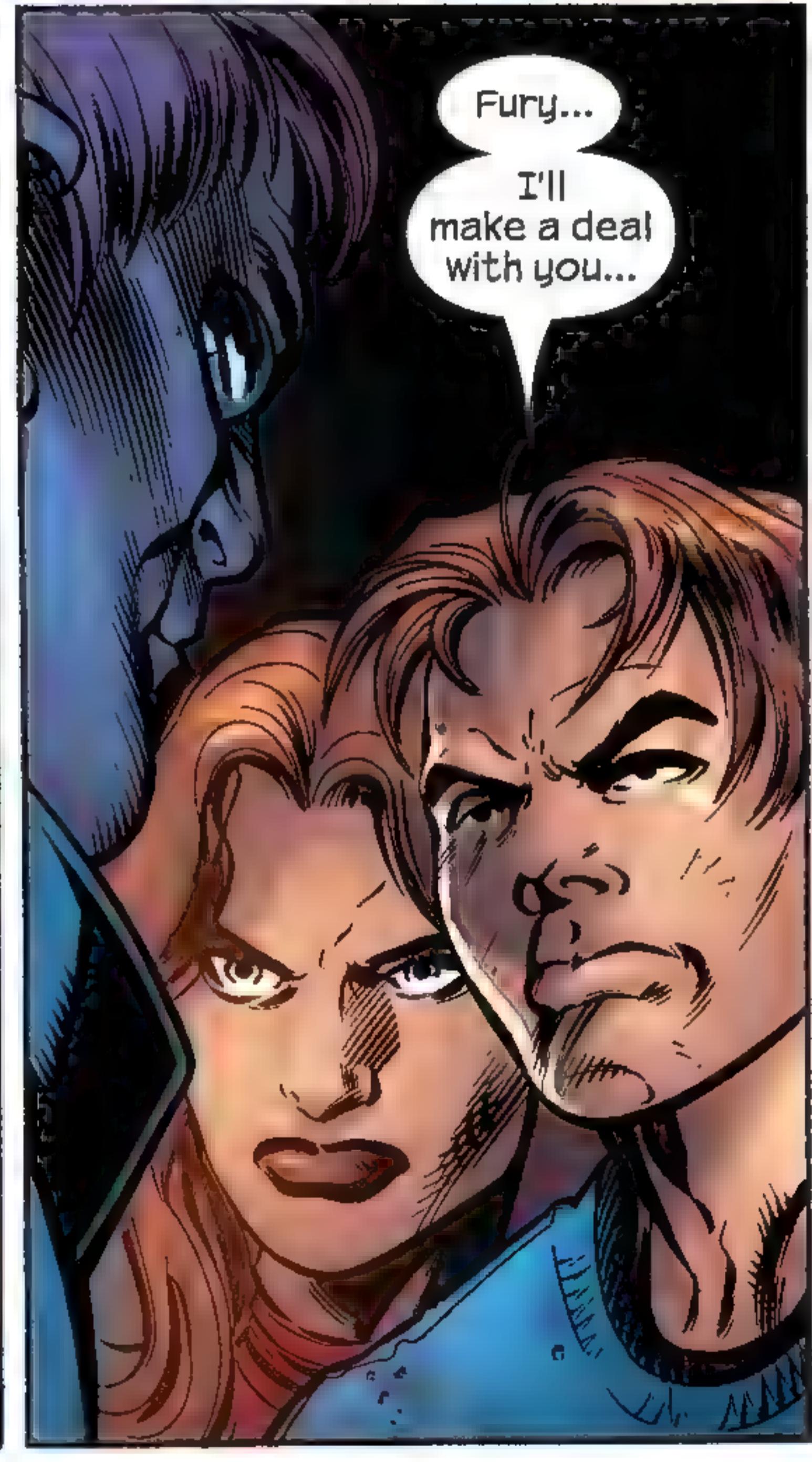
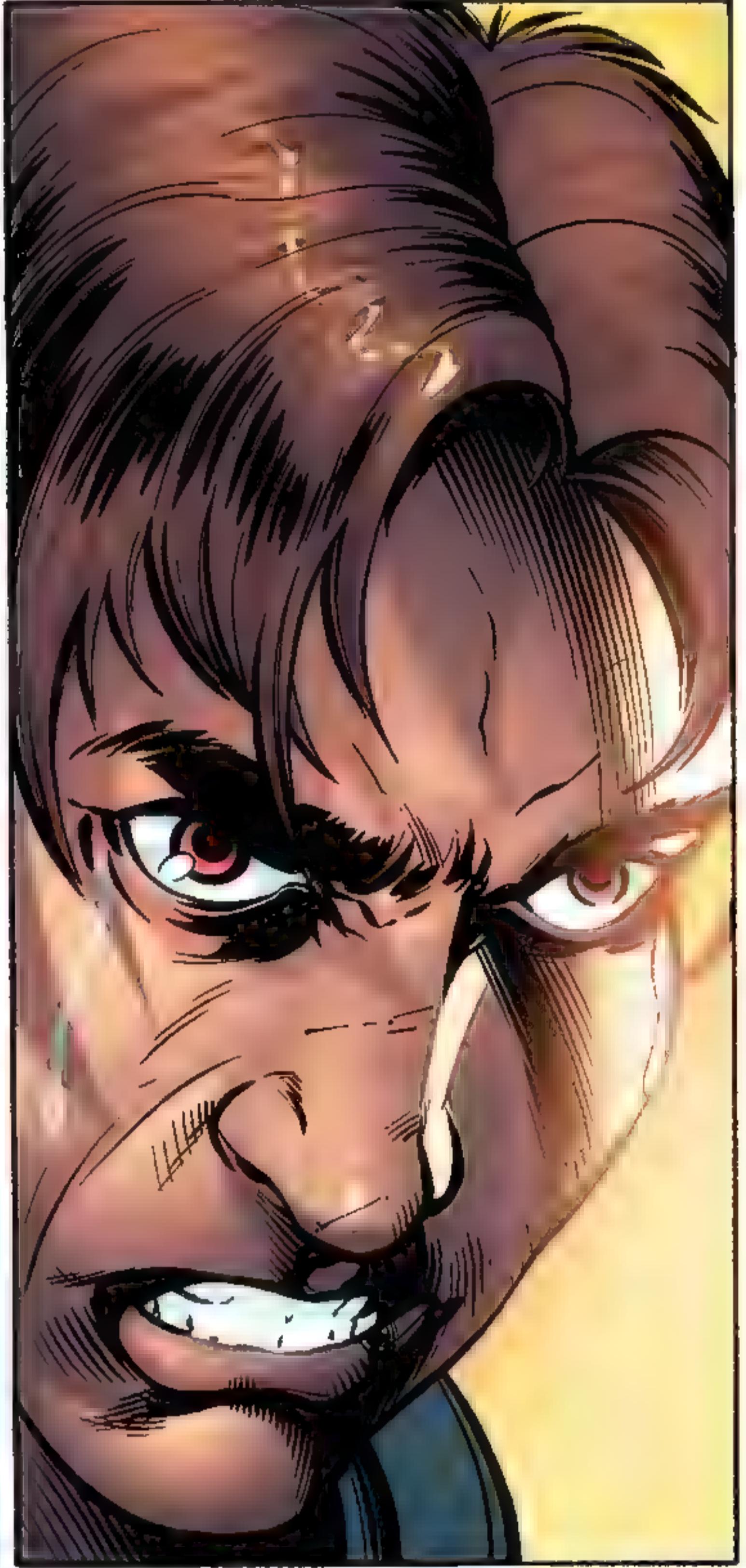
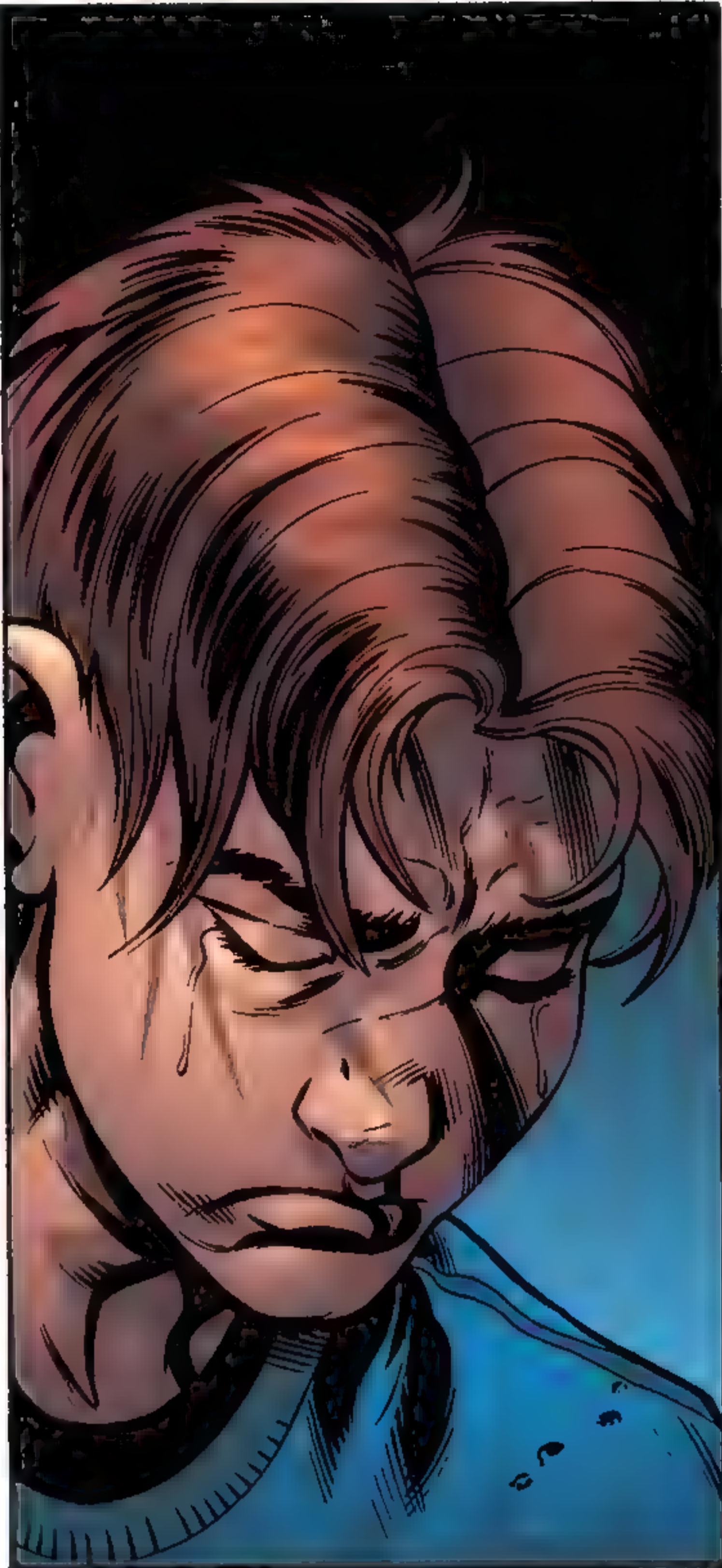
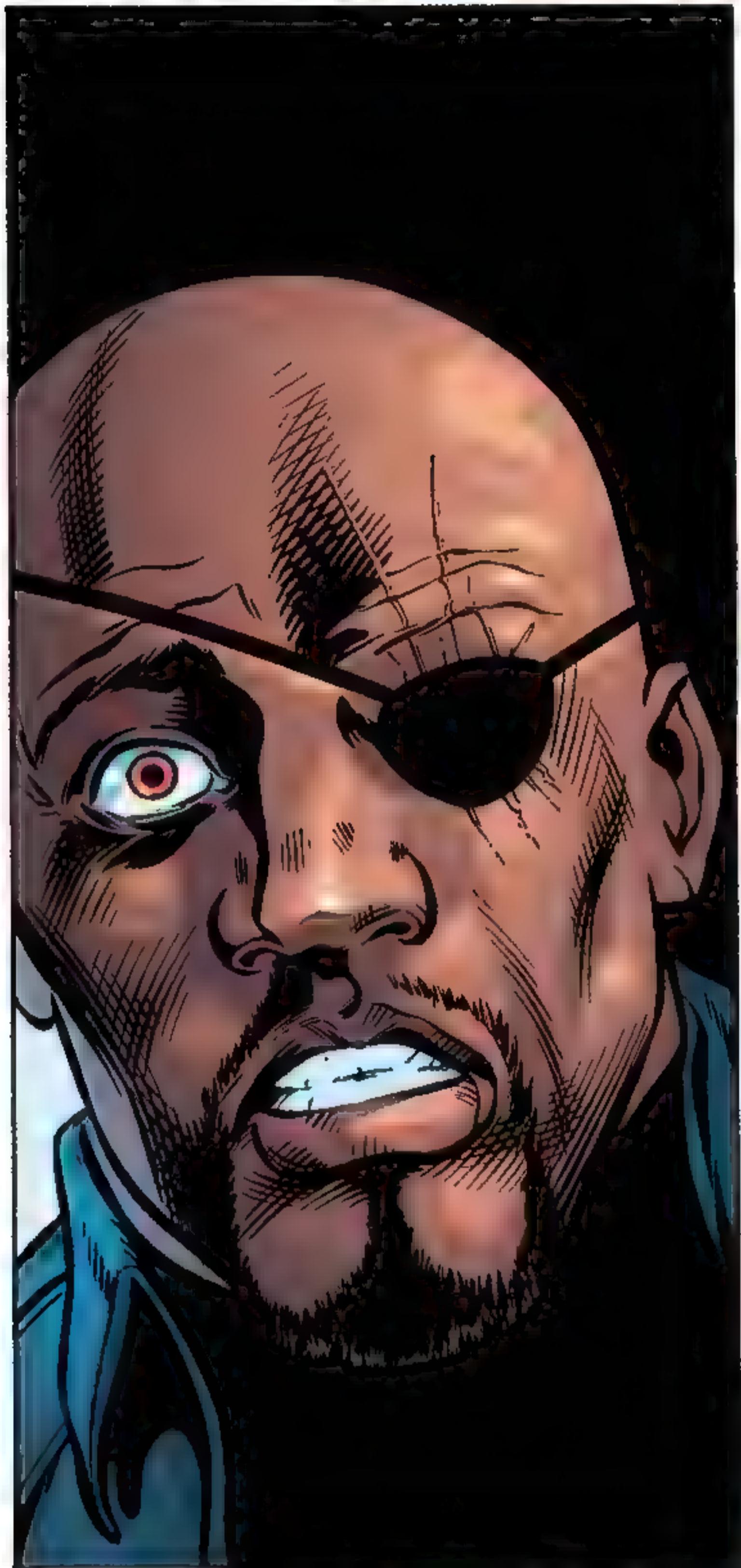
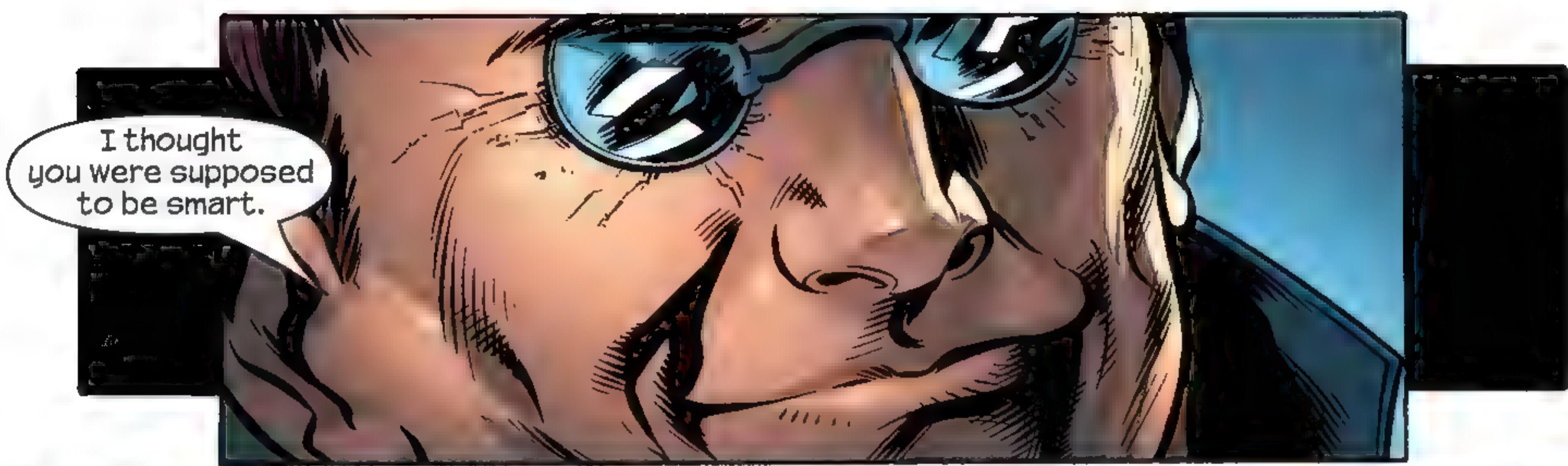


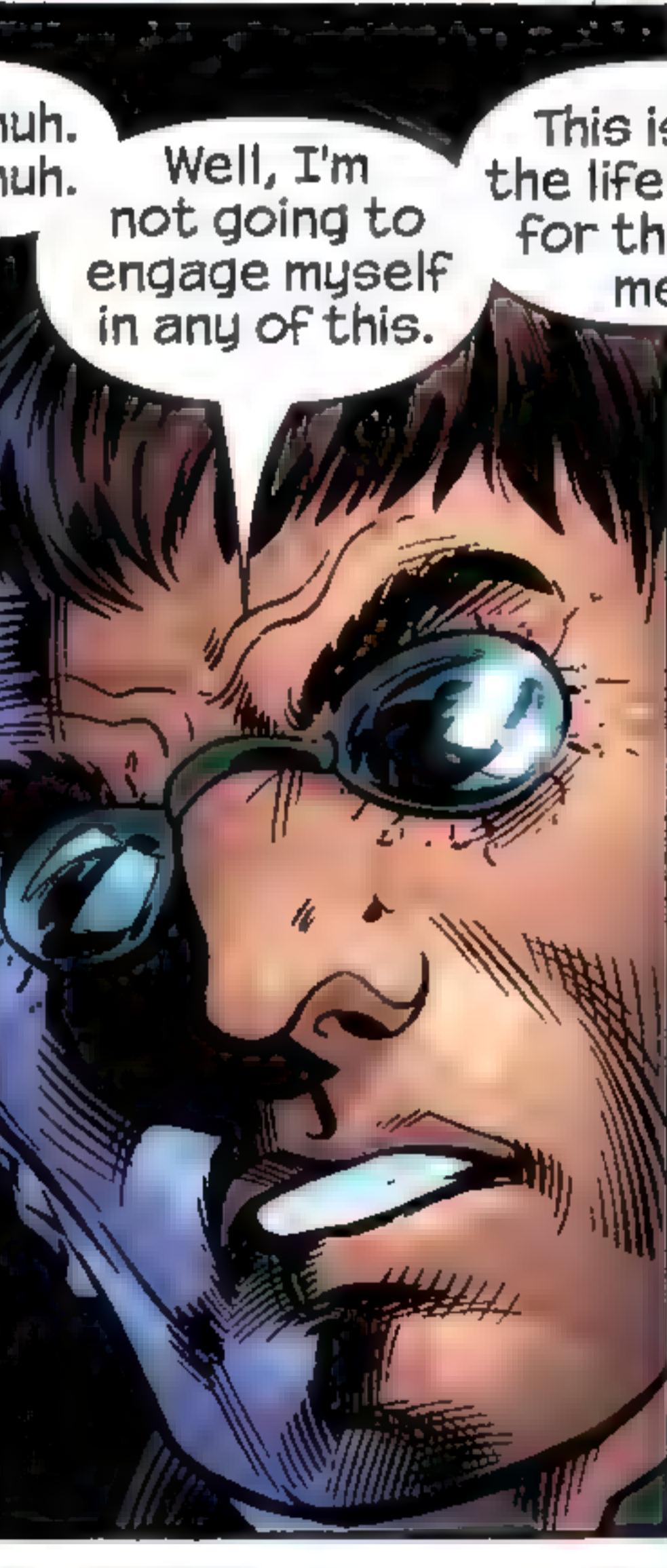
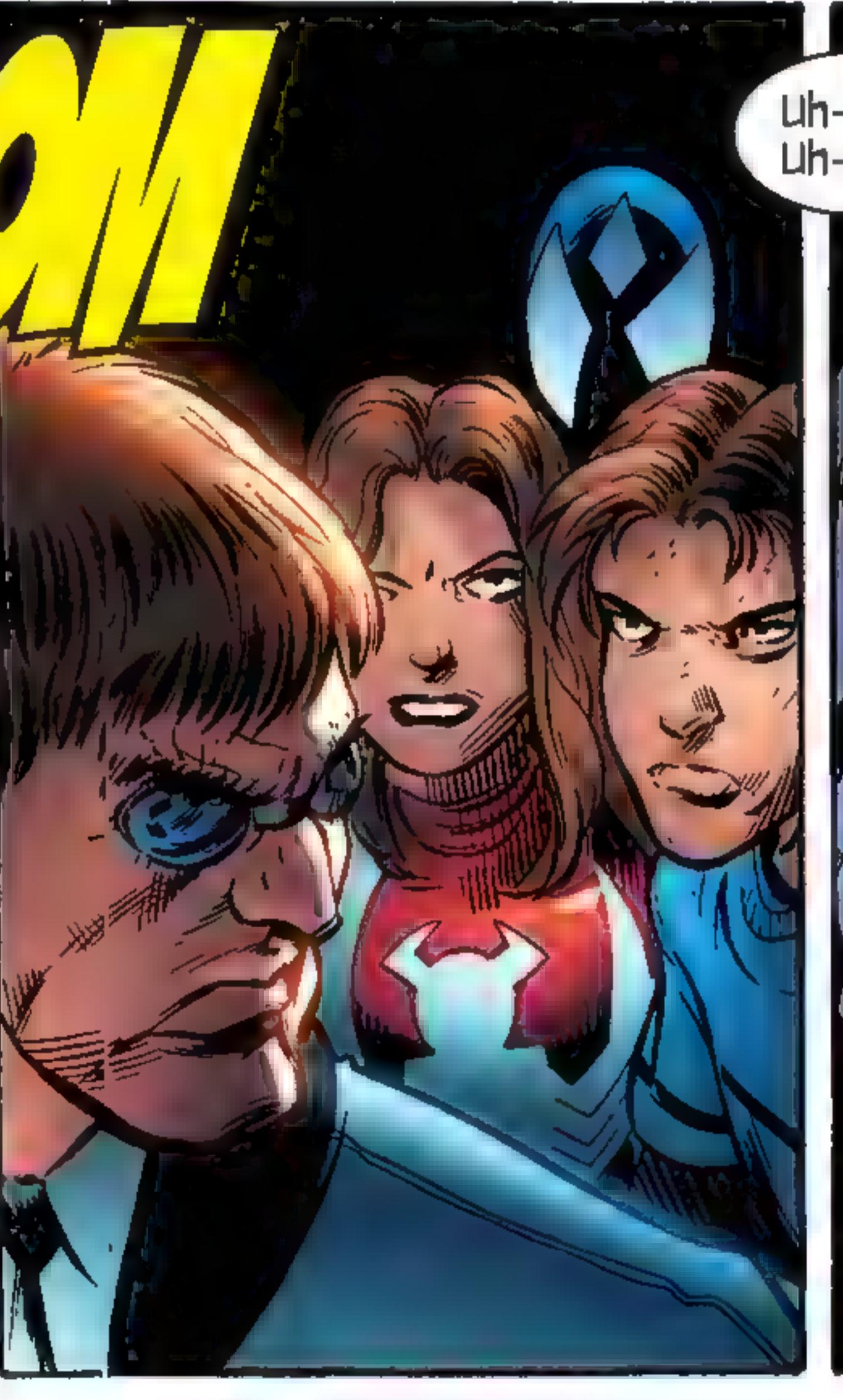
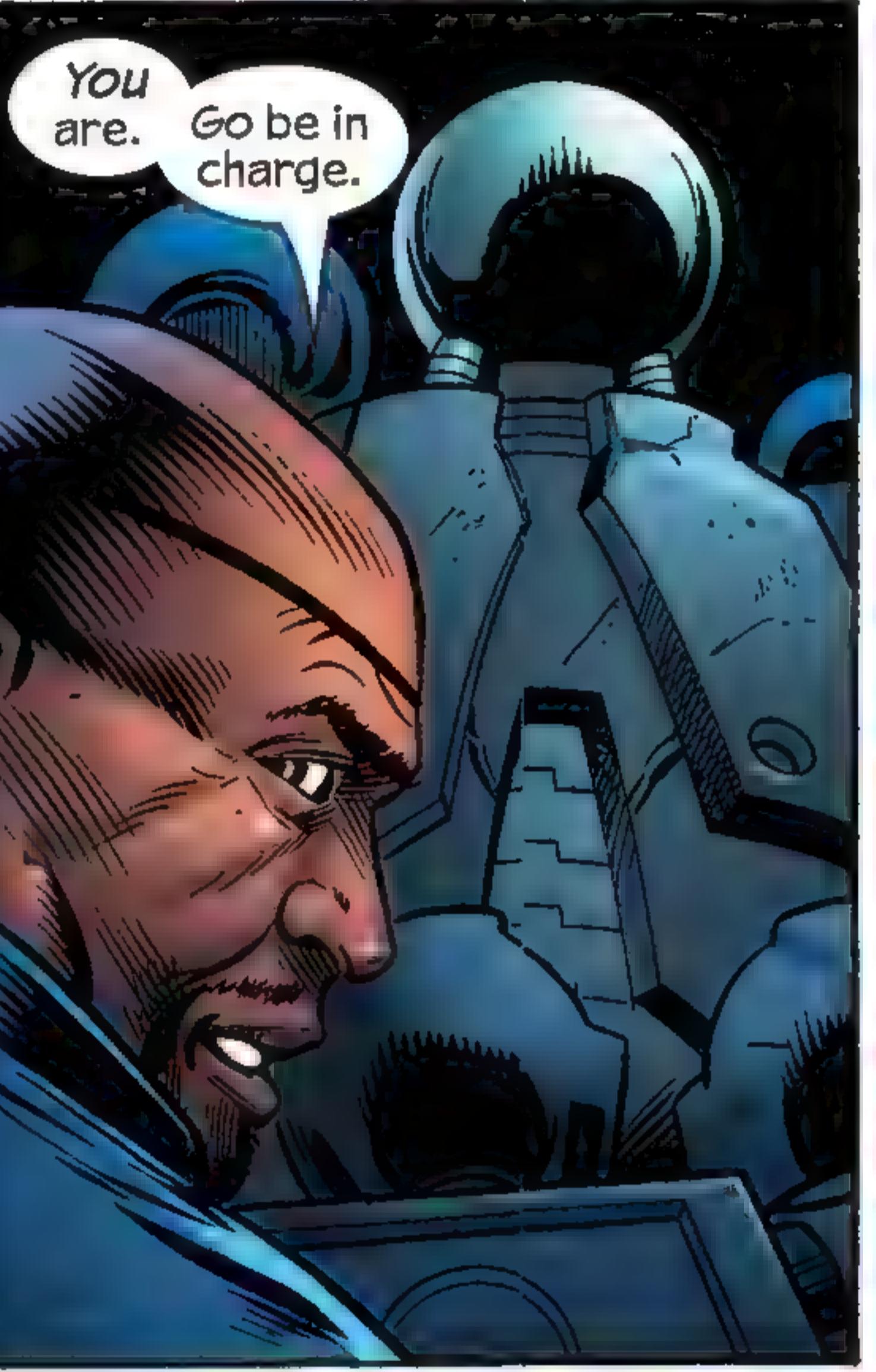
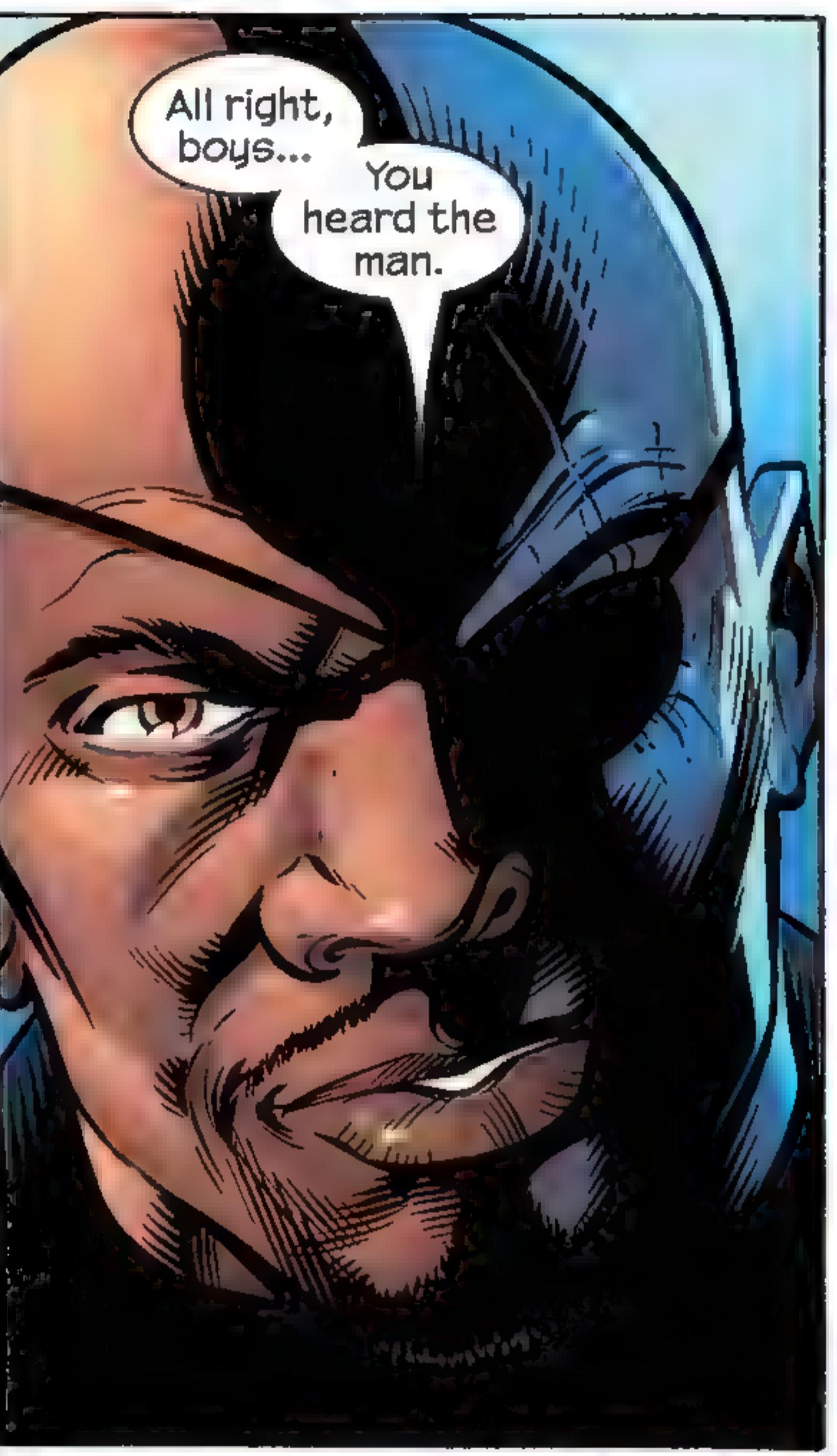
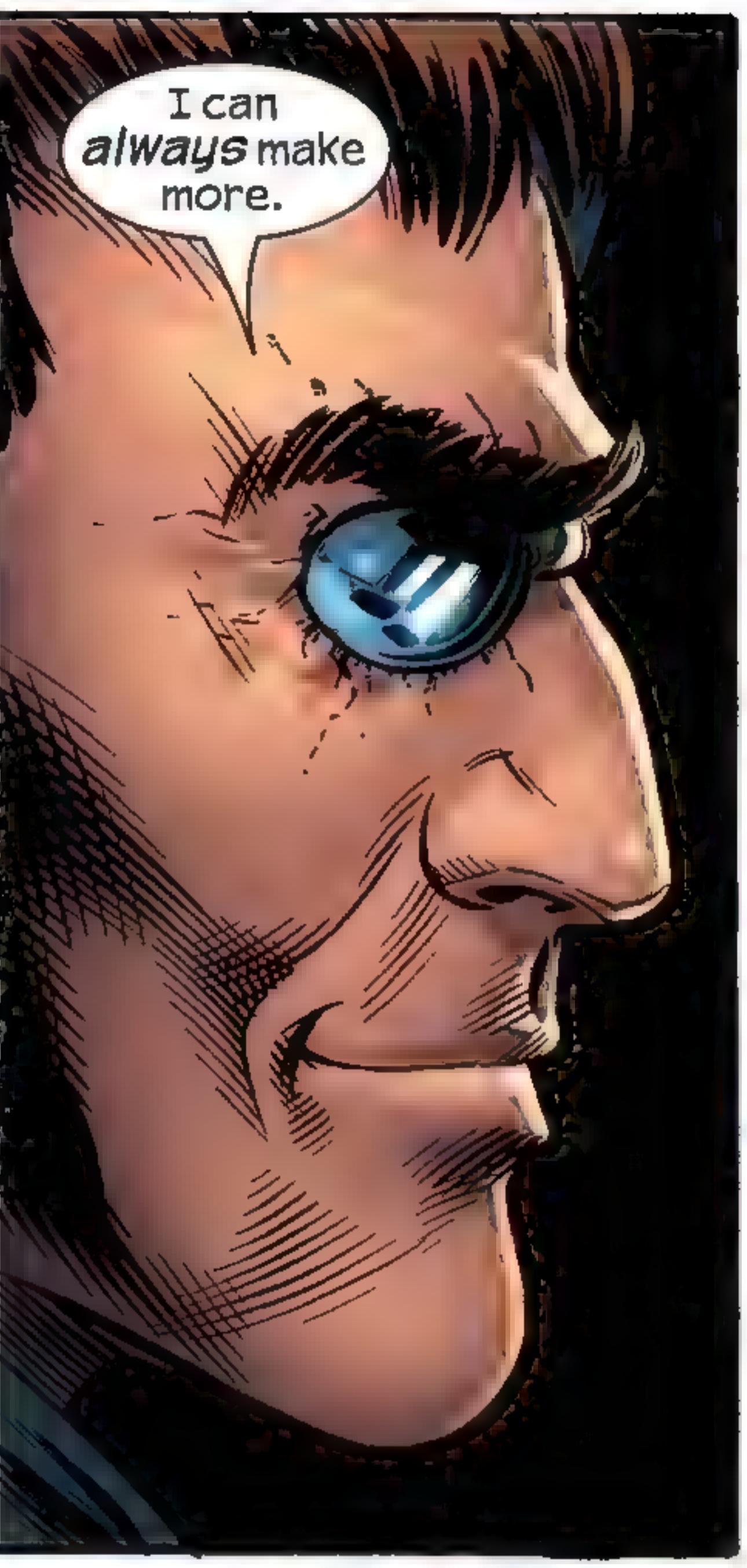
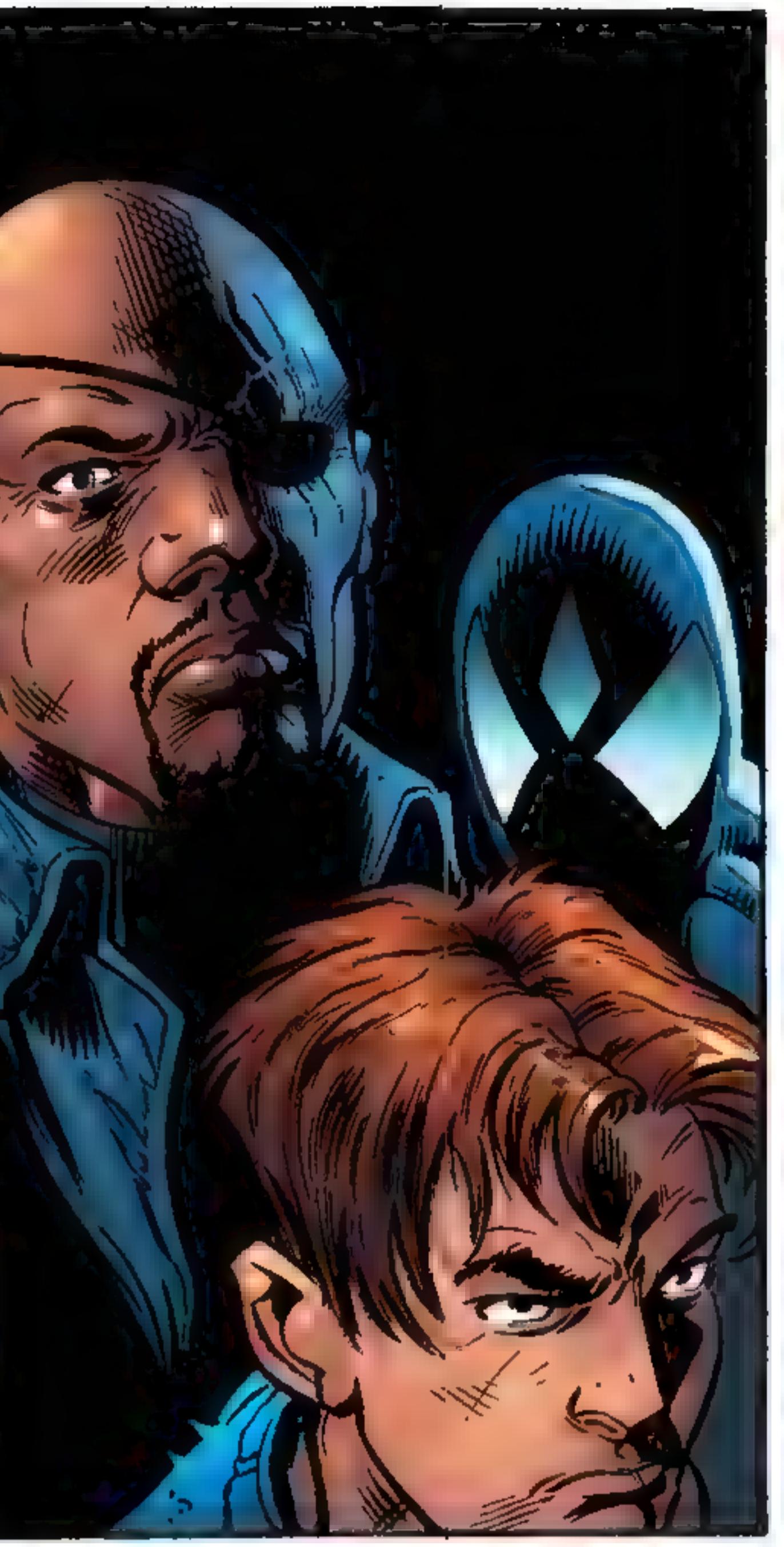
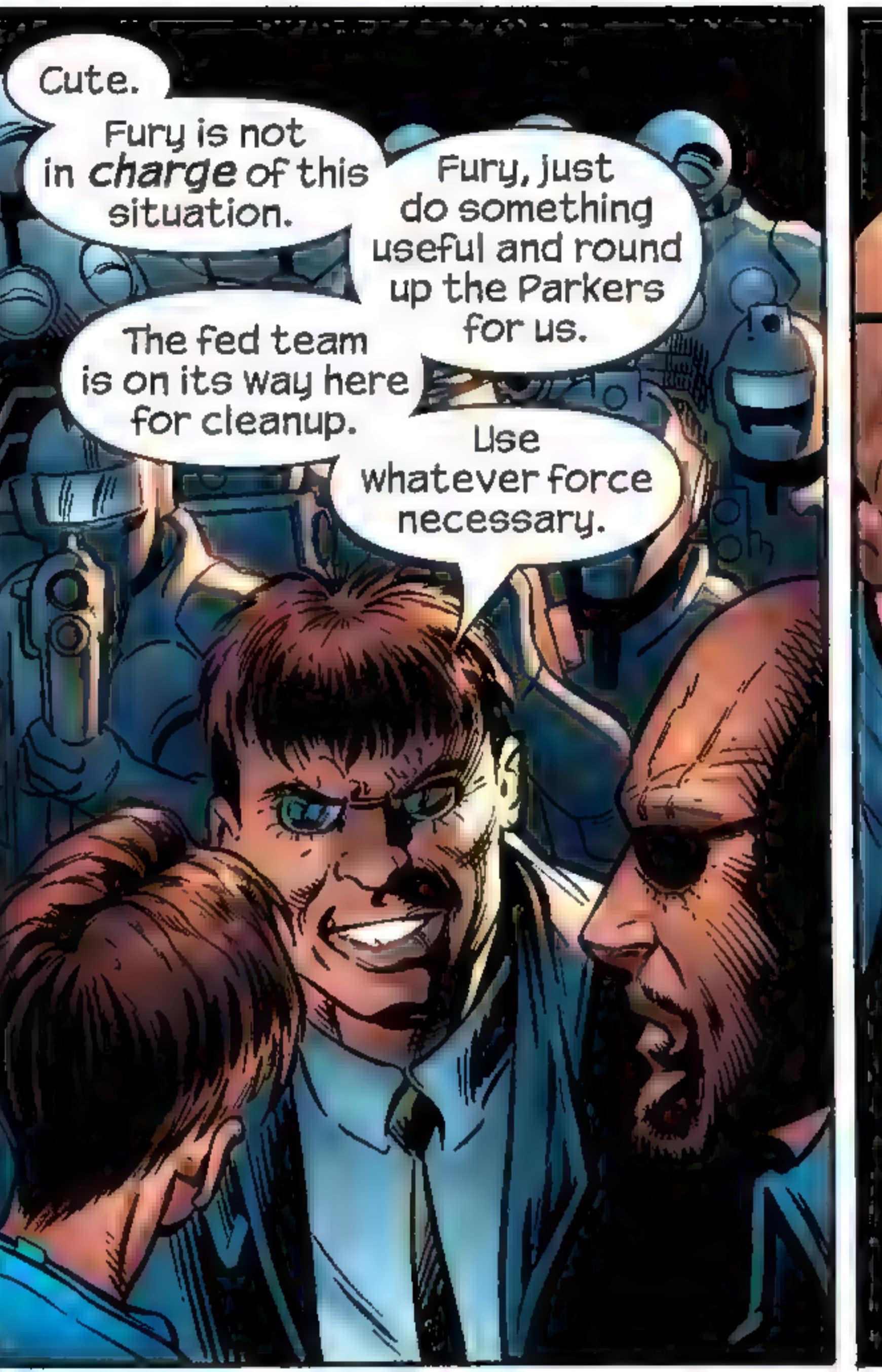


"Your father died in a plane crash, Peter.

"Wow, you really deluded yourself if you thought that man was your father."

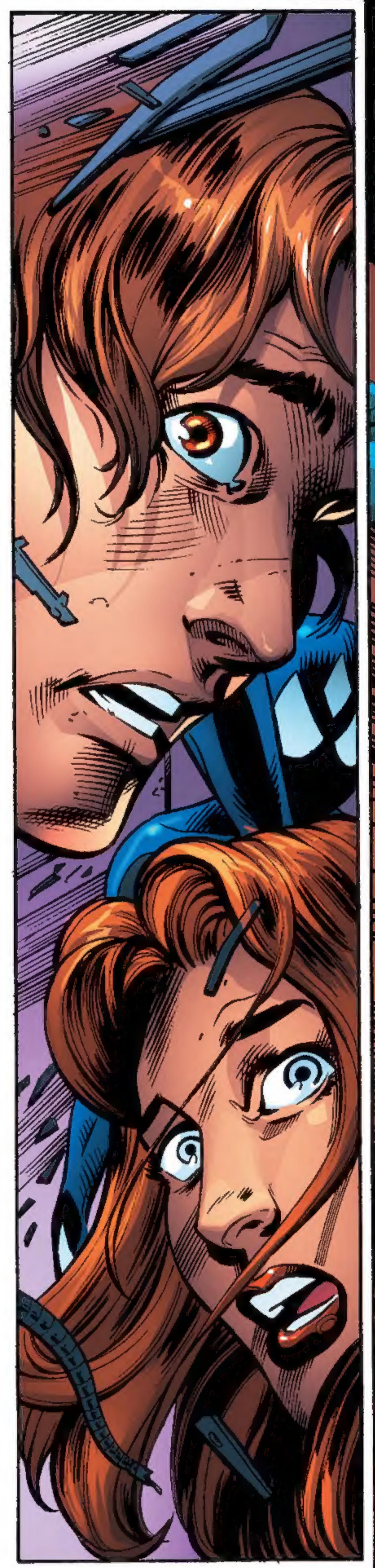












To be continued...

# ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN

This is it! Congratulations to Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Bagley on completing 103 consecutive issues of *Ultimate Spider-Man*—a record for a Marvel Comic! And the previous record holders were none other than Stan Lee and Jack Kirby on the first 102 issues of *Fantastic Four*! That's great company to be in!

Of course we'd be remiss if we didn't point out that *Groo the Wanderer*, by Sergio Aragones and Mark Evanier (and Tom Luth and Stan Sakai), ran for 120 issues from Marvel's Epic imprint, as well as many issues elsewhere.

But for a regular Marvel series, nobody's done this many issues without a fill-in somewhere! And we wouldn't have made it without the best team of inkers, colorists, and letterers in comics, so thanks to: Richard Isanove, Art Thibert, John Dell, Drew Hennessy, Steve Buccellato, Jung Choi, J.D. Smith, Justin Ponsor, Richard Starkings, Chris Eliopoulos, Cory Petit, and all the others who've worked on the book from the beginning! Thanks to Bill Jemas and Joe Quesada, and thanks especially to Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, for doing it first.

But above all, congratulations Brian and Mark! Great job, guys!

Okay, I just read *Ultimate Spider-Man* #102 and I had to write in immediately to say that it was amazing! "The Clone Saga" has been fantastic so far, and I can't wait to see what's coming next! I also wanted to add my voice to the people requesting that you don't have all the effects of what's going on vanish and Peter's life go completely back to normal once "The Clone Saga" is over.

Specifically, I would very much like to see the female clone of Peter—I guess she's the Ultimate version of the Scarlet Spider perhaps?—NOT be killed off, degenerate or have her memories changed so that she doesn't know she's a clone of Peter.

I was very disappointed in the original Spidey "Clone Saga" storyline when Ben Reilly was abruptly killed off, because I felt it was just such a huge waste of potential. I think this female version of Peter has even more potential!

Not only can you explore an uneasy partnership between her and Peter (and her envy of Peter's life because she remembers it as her own), you also can deal with her having to come to terms with the fact that, despite remembering life as a guy, she is in fact a girl. There's just so much you can do with her, so I hope you decide to keep her around!

And on the subject, I was just wondering about her webbing, and the way it seems to come out of several of her fingertips? Is it just that she has some advanced version of Peter's web-shooters or did they "tweak" more than just her chromosomes and actually make it organic?

So, 'til the Torch and the female Peter start dating (actually that could be really entertaining), Make Mine Marvel!

Thomas Fisher

Thanks, Thomas! Rest assured, "The Clone Saga" will have long-lasting repercussions on Peter's life. As to who lives, who dies, who...uh...degenerates—the next two issues will tell the tale!

Greetings Ultimate Spidey-Guys!!

Congrats to all on 100+ issues, and I hope for many, many more! A special 'grats to Bendis and

Bagley in advance for your record 103 consecutively produced issues—hope you guys keep on going! I tell you guys, when you have something that works, it's a fantastic ride—and *USM* has been a fantastic ride from the first issue.

You made me laugh, made my jaw drop, made me question the sanity of those around me (I know I'm perfectly sane, but...). I loved the fact that Peter's dad appeared in "Clone Saga." When I saw that I said out loud, "Okay, this thing has gone completely off the wall!" And off the wall is where the best stuff is often found.

Having just finished reading "Clone Saga" Part 5, I'm still trying to wrap my brain around the whole thing, but I definitely want more. I hope we get to see more of Gwen Stacy (have you guys thought of the implications of *three* of Spidey's girls in one room at the same time? Spidey, watch out!).

Anyway, I love the new story angles, the artwork, and most especially the dialogue. Keep up the good work, PLEASE!

Nathan  
Laramie, WY

Things'll get crazier, Nathan. Things'll get crazier.

Dear *Ultimate Spider-Man*,

*Ultimate Spider-Man* has reached issue #100, and I have to say I couldn't be happier with the title. Month in and month out, the consistent quality of both writing and artwork has been nothing short of amazing.

I'm one of the rare few who actually liked the original "Clone Saga" (it was actually my introduction to Spider-Man in general). And now to see it being given new life, with a much better story and framework in place—I just feel like this series has built up to such a perfect moment. I really hope to see this series soar to new and exciting heights as it goes into the triple digits.

Oh—and Gwen Stacy's return is a most welcome and exciting moment! Even though she's a clone—I say you should keep her! Bendis gave her such life and warmth. Heck, if we see her die again, it's going to hurt a whole lot more than it did the first time. Keep her around!

Keep up the amazing artwork and storylines! I fully expect to see Bendis and Bagley doing issue #200!

Erik Hollender  
Winthrop, MA

Thanks, Erik!

USM Staff,

I would like to take this opportunity to let all of you know how honored I am to be a part of the historical *Ultimate Spider-Man* run. During the past week I finally found the last issue I needed to complete my *USM* collection (#5) and who would have thought that by the age of 22 I would own and continue to enjoy a piece of comic book history.

My thanks go out to everyone who makes this book what it is, and I look forward to the next 100 issues of crossovers, villains, and amazing revisions of classic Marvel moments! Thanks again!

Erich Hartsig

Thanks for reading all those comics, Erich!

Hey, guys at *USM*,

After reading issue 101, all I could say was wow!

Bendis continues to impress and the artwork was amazing, too! I've been reading *USM* on and off since issue 1. I'm now 15, and just can't get over how good you guys are writing the teenage Spidey! I hope you guys keep up the good work. I'm enjoying the "Clone Saga" far more than the previous one (I hope we see Ultimate Scarlet Spider soon).

So until Venom appears on Oprah, Make Mine Marvel!

Harry Haynes

Wouldn't you have been about five when the original "Clone Saga" came out?

*Ultimate Spider-Man*,

I felt I had to write in to let you know how much I'm enjoying the "Clone Saga" arc up to now. I just finished reading #101, and I gotta say I don't know how Peter can bounce back from this one! Nick Fury's taking him in, and as if that weren't enough, Gwen is Carnage, MJ is a goblin (of some description), Aunt May has had a heart attack, and Peter's dad's back!

I hope that Peter teaches Fury a lesson before this story line finishes. I've always liked Ultimate Nick Fury...right up until this issue! It's not Peter's fault that there's a load of clones of him running around (but whose fault is it?).

This is what I love so much about *Ultimate Spidey*, though—just when you think things can't possibly get any worse for our hero, they almost always do—and I never, ever know what to expect next!

I'd also like to say that I hope Gwen Stacy and Richard Parker stay around for a bit longer.

Thanks for keeping me guessing and producing a great comic, and congratulations on 100 thrilling issues.

Thanks,  
John Turner  
UK

Somebody's bound to learn something after next issue.



Next: The end is here! The action comes to a head as we reach the double-sized climax of the "Clone Saga"—Spidey versus the new Doc Ock! The clones are in the way! Who lives? Who dies? After this, it's all over but picking up the pieces. You made it this far—you can't miss next issue!

JOHN BARBER & NICOLE BOOSE  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS

RALPH MACCHIO  
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA  
CHIEF

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